THE TIMES

No. 66,132 MONDAY FEBRUARY 23 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

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MONDAY 20P

UN chief makes deal with Saddam

US and Britain cautious until detail is known

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN BAGHDAD, IAN BRODIE AND MICHAEL EVANS

A BREAKTHROUGH deal to avert war in the Gulf is expected to be announced in Baghdad this morning after hours of talks between President Saddam Hussein and Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, in Baghdad yesterday.

The details of any agreement will not be announced, however, until Mr Annan has reported to the Security Council tomorrow. Washington and London remained cautious and there was no let-up in the military preparations for air strikes — the American Defence Secretary said that he was signing orders to call up several hundred more reservists to prepare for possible early action against Iraq.

Mr Annan was said to be confident that he had reached an agreement on weapons inspections in Iraq that would satisfy the Security Council and last night he was meeting the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, to "dot the i's and cross the t's" on a UN-drafted document to be presented to the Security Council. Mr Aziz, rather than Saddam, would sign the deal.

The announcement that a deal was within sight came after Mr Annan had spent three hours in talks with the Iraqi President at the Republican Palace. Mr Annan's spokesman, Frank Eckhard, said: "He feels he's on the verge of a breakthrough. He expects what emerges from these talks he will be able to sell to the Security Council." Diplomatic sources said later that all the major issues had been resolved.

The main sticking point had been Iraq's insistence that inspections of eight presidential sites should be limited to an hour. The five permanent members of the Security Council had told Mr Annan before he left for Baghdad that restrictions on inspections would be unacceptable — although they agreed that inspectors could be accompanied by Iraqi diplomats — and one UN official said that Mr Annan had been allowed very little "wiggle room" to negotiate with Saddam.

With both Mr Aziz and Saddam appearing intransigent over the time limit during lengthy talks over the weekend, Mr Annan turned to President Yeltsin to persuade the Iraqi leader that the "permanent five" were united in their refusal to accept deadlines. Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, is understood to have telephoned Baghdad and yesterday a UN official said that the issue had been settled. "Whatever obstacles remained, the Secretary-General believes they were removed during their meeting today."

Besides speaking to Mr Yeltsin, Mr Annan also called Tony Blair, President Chirac of France and the American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.

Yesterday Ms Albright remained cautious about the deal. Without knowing the details, she said that it may work, in which case America would be very pleased. "If it doesn't we have other options. If we don't like it, we will make that very clear." The Administration intended to be "very realistic" about what Mr Annan had agreed. "It is possible that he will come back with something we don't like, in which case we will pursue our national interests."

President Clinton and Mr Blair also reasserted their determination to take a tough line, agreeing during a 15-minute telephone conversation that there could be "no concessions at all on matters of fundamental principle and that Saddam must agree to full, unfettered access to presidential sites that Unscom (the UN team searching for weapons of mass destruction) want to inspect".

However, Robin Cook had earlier said that Britain was ready to offer Saddam "incentives as well as penalties" if he co-operated in eliminating his weapons. If he complied with UN resolutions and stopped his deceiving and delaying tactics, sanctions against Iraq could be lifted "in the fairly near future".

Interviewed on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Mr Cook also said that if the talks produced an acceptable deal, Britain wanted it fully enshrined in a new Security Council resolution "so that we, the United Nations, the world and Saddam are clear what he has signed up to".

The Government was also sticking to its position that if diplomacy failed, it would be "politically sensible" to have a new mandate condemning Iraq and authorising the use of force. Washington believes that this is unnecessary.

A UN official said that when he began his mission, Mr Annan believed his greatest challenge would be to persuade Saddam that there would be light at the end of the sanctions tunnel if he complied fully with the weapons inspections resolutions passed at the end of the Gulf War in 1991. Saddam's fear was that America would keep moving the goalposts whatever he did.

Gulf crisis, pages 12 and 13

EPA

Face to face: Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, spent three hours discussing terms to avoid war with Saddam Hussein at the Republican Palace in Baghdad yesterday

'Family friendly' rotas for nurses

Tens of thousands of nurses who abandoned the health service in exasperation with its rigid system of shifts are to be wooed back by "family friendly" rotas which allow staff to choose when they are on duty. The system is based on one that is used in Sweden .....Page 2

High St war

J Sainsbury is to go into battle with Tesco to reclaim the high streets they abandoned in the 1980s. The first Sainsbury's Local store will open in June and more are planned to rival Tesco's Metro chain - page 48

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Mandelson announces birth of a Baby Dome

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A "BABY DOME" seating 6,000 people and designed for live performances is to be erected next to the Millennium Dome at Greenwich.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who is in chare of the Dome project, announced the plan in a television interview yesterday. Speaking within sight of the 100m yellow masts which tower over the Dome's construction site, Mr Mandelson told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* that visitors to the Millennium Experience at Greenwich will be able to watch live performances in the "Baby Dome" of school choirs and steel bands which are related to the exhibition in the main structure. In the evenings, it will be used for concerts.

Tony Blair, who visited the New Millennium Experience Company last week, will unveil the Dome's contents tomorrow. But the political row over the Dome continued yesterday as Conservatives stepped up their attacks on Mr Mandelson's management of the project after it emerged that he held a meeting last Thursday with Francis Maude, the Shadow Heritage Secretary.

"I'm worried that it's going to keep us up all night"

Mr Mandelson said that he called the meeting to issue an appeal to Mr Maude and his colleagues in the Shadow Heritage team to "stop treating this as a political football". He said that he had obviously failed because Mr Maude had rejected his overtures.

Mr Maude reacted angrily to his interpretation of the meeting because he claimed that Mr Mandelson had asked to see him last Thursday to tell him the project was facing a crisis. Mr Maude told ITV's *Crosstalk* programme: " He came to us to say: 'Can you support us, this thing is in deep crisis, the sponsorship is on a knife edge, we are finding it very difficult to get sponsors above a certain level'."

Photograph, page 24

Media face ban on cash to witnesses

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to introduce legislation to end "chequebook journalism" such as the payments made to witnesses in the trial of Rosemary West, the Cromwell Street murderer.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, The Lord Chancellor, is believed to have adopted the view that self-regulation by the Press Complaints Commission is not adequate control and that a draft Bill should be introduced, probably in the next session.

In what could bring a fresh clash with the newspaper industry, the Government is likely to propose legislation to make it illegal for the media to pay witnesses in advance of, during or immediately after a trial. Legislation could take the form of a new criminal offence to ban payments or alternatively making such payments an offence under the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The law is likely to cover payments in kind as well as in cash and could also include the foreign media if they make an offer within this jurisdiction.

A defence would be if a newspaper had good reason not to know that an individual would be a witness.

MPs have been concerned about buying up of witnesses since the trial of Rosemary West in 1995. In that case, up to 19 witnesses were believed to enter into media agreements and some received money.

The problem also arose in the moors murders case in the 1960s and the trials of Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, and Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper.

Newspapers argue that there have been few instances of buying-up of witnesses over the years and that legislation is unnecessary.

Windsor auction set to triple $7m estimate

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

SOTHEBY'S is hoping to triple its pre-auction estimate of $7 million (£4.3 million) for the sale of memorabilia that once belonged to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

The auction house has raised $6.7 million after the first three days alone and the sale today of a portrait by Sir Alfred Munnings could easily fetch about $4 million. The Queen is rumoured to be interested in buying the portrait, regarded by many experts as the most beautiful of the 40,000 items available during the nine-day sale.

Estimated by Sotheby's at $600,000 to $800,000, the painting, *HRH The Prince of Wales on* Forest Witch, shows the Duke, as heir to the throne, astride a tawny horse on his way to a hunt. Munnings's precision captures the young man's glamour and panache. But the central delicacy of the work, painted in 1921, lies in the hint of pain on the subject's face.

An object central to the Duke's like has been the highlight of the auction so far. The mahogany desk on which King Edward VIII signed the Instrument of Abdication, turning him, with a flourish of ink and quill, from King into Duke, sold for $415,000, more than eight time the estimate.

In a moment of sublime kitsch, Saturday's auction also saw the purchase, by Uri Geller, of a silver medicine spoon that had once belonged to the Duchess of Windsor. Mr Geller, spoon-collector extraordinaire, who shot to fame for bending spoons with his "pschic force", paid $1,700 for the object, measuring 5¼ in in length. He intends not to bend it, but to add it to his collection of more than 5,000 precious spoons.

The sale of the desk came as a heartening tonic for Sotheby's, whose pre-sale estimates have been shown to be almost risibly conservative.

Nothing illustrates this point better than the abdication Desk, which was expected to fetch only $30,000 to $50,000. The desk is indisputably elegant, quite apart from the beguiling aura of history, passion and bitterness with which it is suffused. At that table, at 10.30am on December 10, 1936, King Edward

Continued on page 2, col 3

Jamie Niven, Sotheby's auctioneer and son of David Niven, in action

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McLaughlin: challenged by republican supporters

Sinn Fein tries to increase pressure on Blair

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN sought to turn the tables on the Government yesterday. Two days after being suspended from the peace talks, it said its supporters were losing faith in the process and threatened not to return on March 9.

Gerry Adams, the party's president, said its national executive would shortly meet to decide future policy. This was not "political shadow boxing" he told a rally in Co Wexford. "We have to work out how credibility in the peace process, which has been lost in many nationalist and republican eyes, can be restored."

Mitchel McLaughlin, the party chairman, told the BBC: "We are being challenged by our own supporters to demonstrate that the present talks process has any efficacy whatsoever, and I'm afraid we are in some difficulty convincing people that there is any benefit at all in returning ... because the same specious grounds could be used to eject us once again."

Sinn Fein officials insist nationalists are furious at the way the party was ejected last week for two recent IRA murders, although only a few hundred supporters attended a protest rally in central Belfast yesterday.

But yesterday's statements were also designed to put pressure on the Government. Mr Adams is demanding a meeting with Tony Blair to address Sinn Fein's complaint that the process is "fundamentally flawed". He said the outcome would influence Sinn Fein's decision, but it is far from clear that the Prime Minister will agree to such a meeting while Sinn Fein is barred from the talks. Downing Street said the request was being considered.

Sinn Fein claims it was given no evidence linking it to the murders, and was ejected on the word of the RUC Chief Constable and at the insistence of Unionists who refuse to negotiate in good faith. "Most people within the talks have come to the conclusion that, if the present participants were to talk for the next 50 years, they wouldn't agree a deal," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, told GMTV.

The talks resume this morning with Sinn Fein absent — though it can still use its Stormont offices — but the Ulster Democratic Party reinstated after a one-month expulsion for the murders of three Catholics by its paramilitary associates.

No group has yet admitted responsibility for the 500lb car bomb that exploded in the Co Down village of Moira on Friday, injuring eleven people, seven of them policemen. The most likely culprit was the Continuity IRA, a breakaway group virulently opposed to the talks.

Hague to accept Labour's reforms

BY NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE will declare tomorrow that Conservatives cannot turn the clock back on the constitutional changes introduced by Labour and that Tories must draw up their own set of reforms for the new millennium.

But in his most important speech on Britain's constitution since the election, Mr Hague will tell his party that a new Conservative government would have to repair the damage inflicted by Labour. He will say: "We need to adopt our own programme of constitutional reform. We will have to correct the dangerous imbalances and tensions Labour's constitutional reforms will unleash."

The Tory leader will reassure traditionalists that Conservative reforms will adhere to the party's core principles. "We must seek to construct a set of constitutional relationships that will preserve the over-arching principles of our existing constitution: limited government, the rule of law, the unity of the kingdom and, above all, democratic accountability," he will say.

Mr Hague will stop short of setting out definitive proposals because Conservatives are still thrashing out their ideas for reforming the Commons and the Lords. He will emphasise that the Tories would face a transformed constitution, with Scottish and Welsh devolved bodies and a reformed House of Lords that will leave a series of unresolved problems.

One of these is the so-called West Lothian question, which asks whether it is right for Scottish MPs at Westminster to vote on English matters.

Peter Riddell, page 20

New rota system could solve nursing crisis

A program that allows for time off when it suits workers has been a success, reports

Nicholas Watt

TENS of thousands of nurses who abandoned the health service in exasperation with its rigid system of shifts are to be wooed back by "family friendly" rotas that allow staff to choose when they are on duty.

An innovative Swedish computer system, which organises shifts according to the needs of nurses and their patients, is to be introduced in hospitals throughout Britain.

A pilot scheme of the Timecare system in 19 health trusts has been such a success that it has reduced absenteeism and encouraged many of the 140,000 nurses who left the NHS to return.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, hailed the system as a breakthrough in wooing back nurses — 90 per cent of whom are women — who could not balance a demanding NHS career with the needs of their family. He said: "With this new technology we have an opportunity to introduce a family-friendly employment policy. We can make sure that if people are looking after children but want to work then employers can organise that they work the hours that suit them."

Mr Dobson is so impressed that he is planning to extend the system to junior doctors, 50 per cent of whom are women.

The Timecare program, designed by Hakan Zetterberg, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, allocates shifts based on the periods when nurses are most in demand and on requests from staff for time off. Nurses register their requests for time off in the computer which keeps a record of how much they have worked. If a nurse has "banked" a lot of hours, the computer will look more favourably at requests for time off. Under the system nurses still work the same hours, usually 37 hours a week.

Timecare can drastically cut costs because hospitals do not have to rely on more expensive agency nurses to fill gaps. Mr Dobson said he hoped that Timecare would save the NHS millions of pounds. He said: "There are 140,000 trained nurses who are not nursing. It cost £35,000 each to train them. That is £4.5 billion spent on training people who are not nursing. When surveys are done as to why they left, pay strangely enough does not seem to be a major issue. It is the demanding hours, being messed around by management and things like that."

Anne Vernengo, Timecare's project manager, described the system as "self-rostering". She said: "It takes away the feeling of guilt about asking for time off because the computer allows nurses to cover the peaks and troughs in an imaginative way. If someone needs to work only five hours, instead of the normal eight, they can place the extra three hours in the computer's time bank. They then work those hours when they are needed." Ms Vernengo added that the system was saving nurses' money. She said: "Nurses are able to manage their childcare much better."

Sister Dee Doyle, 48, who uses Timecare on the Rainbow paediatric ward at Wigan's Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, said it had transformed working conditions for her 32 nurses. In her case it made it much easier for her to care for her 81-year-old father and to pursue her career in the Army Cadet Force. She said: "When I need to take my father to a hospital appointment I just book a few hours off. Before I had to take the whole day off."

Other nurses are also seeing the benefits. Sister Doyle said: "When a nurse's child was ill they used to call in sick themselves because they would lose pay if they took a day off to look after their child. But now, with time accumulated in the computer, nurses can take the time off. That has cut down costs of sick leave."

The Royal College of Nursing, which has represents 300,000 registered nurses and which has been closely involved in the pilot schemes, also welcomed the system. A spokeswoman said: "It's a really good system and we have been impressed. Anything that allows more flexibility for nurses with families and other commitments would be a real boon."

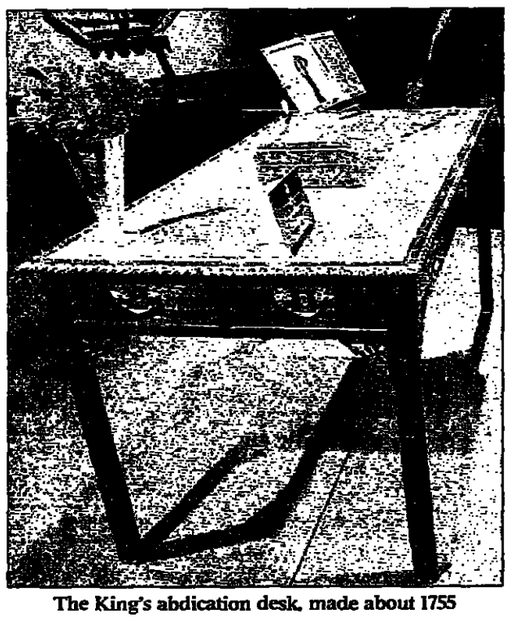
BARRY GREENWOOD

Sister Dee Doyle, who has found that Timecare transformed working conditions for her and her colleagues

Challenge to Connery snub

THE Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, is to be challenged in Parliament over claims that he vetoed a knighthood for Sean Connery because of the actor's support for the Scottish National Party. Downing Street and the Scottish Office yesterday refused to confirm or deny the allegation.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said last night: "Every Scot and every fair-minded person will be horrified by this mean-spirited behaviour."



The King's abdication desk, made about 1755

Sale set to triple estimate

Continued from page 1

VIII signed the papers that made him the only monarch in British history to renounced the throne voluntarily.

The Instrument read: "I, Edward the Eighth, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare My irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for Myself and for My descendants."

The George III table, made in about 1755, has a rectangular inset top of green leather, with a "gadrooned" border. The legs, square and chamfered, are unusual.

Diana Phillips, the spokeswoman for Sotheby's, described the desk as having fetched "a very good price". Desk-watchers, however, were quick to point out that its sale price was relatively modest when compared with the sum fetched in 1996, of the of effects from the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onnasis, by a desk used by President Kennedy to sign the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. That fetched an explosive $1.43 million.

Yet another sale to catch the eye was of a silver print portrait of Musafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, who dedicated it personally to King Edward VIII in September 1936. Estimated to sell for only $200, it was bought for a sumptuous $34,000 by a buyer on the auction floor who declined to be identified. The inscription from Ataturk, in Turkisk, reads: "To my great and esteemed friend His Majesty King Edward VIII with my affection and respect, 6/IX/1936, K. Ataturk.

Rumours swept the auction floor over the weekend of a more contemporary royal dimension to the auction. The Queen, conjecture here has it, is interested in purchasing a handful of items thought to be of special value to her family. The Munnings portrait, of course, is said to be her principal focus of interest.

Other items thought to be coveted by the Queen include the rag-doll Chimney Sweep, made for the young Prince by his mother, Queen Mary. Legend has it that this was the closest the "ice queen" ever came to bestowing affection upon her son, and the Duke carried it with him on his travels everywhere.

☐ Geneva: A jewellery sale in the Swiss ski resort of St Moritz netted Swiss FR13.8 million at the weekend, Christie's said. Despite Asia's financial crisis, the sale was well bid, with many private collectors.

Irvine to spend £2.5m on hiring extra staff

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor's largesse with taxpayers' money is now focused on his department, where he is to spend up to £2.5 million on extra staff.

Lord Irvine of Lairg is to recruit for his Whitehall headquarters during the next six to 12 months because of a demanding programme of work, according to a document seen by The Times. The move comes after weeks in which Lord Irvine has been at the centre of controversy over the £650,000 refurbishment of his official residence at Westminster.

Extra officials will be employed in the Lord Chancellor's Department at Victoria, central London, in the policy group and judicial appointments group, and some of the money will be used for additional legal posts. There is a current headquarters staff of 800 and a total departmental staff of more than 11,000.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "We have been led to believe that no money was available and everything was the subject of the Government's comprehensive spending review.

"Yet in the last week extra money has been found for prisons and it now transpires that £2.5 million is to be spent on recruiting extra staff for the Lord Chancellor's Department. It is to be hoped that extra money can be found for beleaguered parts of the criminal justice system."

Staff have been angered by the decision to draw recruits both from inside the department and from a "trawl" through other Whitehall ministries.

The disclosure that Lord Irvine is embarking on a recruiting exercise involving the spending of millions of pounds will fuel suspicions about whether his ultimate ambition is to create a Ministry of Justice incorporating functions now the responsibility of the Home Office.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

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DES JENSON

Part of the Peance Fionda eveningwear collection

Downing Street designer misses her biggest fan

By Grace Bradberry, style editor

SUNDAY morning may be the dead zone of the London Fashion Week schedule but it is the ideal time to lure celebrities to a show, as Ronit Zilkha proved yesterday.

Esther Rantzen, Gaby Roslin, and Felicity Kendal were out at 10am yesterday scouting for their autumn and winter wardrobes. But Ms Zilkha had an even bigger fish to fry: she is Cherie Booth's favourite designer. The Prime Minister's wife was at Chequers, but her sister, Lyndsey, and her style guru, Carole Caplin, were scribbling away in the front row.

Of the seven Booth sisters, Lyndsey, 42, is the closest to Cherie. She was five and Cherie seven when their parents divorced. Their mother subsequently worked in a fish and chip shop to make ends meet. Ms Zilkha's clothes are not for those on a budget, but they are not at the top end of the designer scale — a jacket costs around £250. Yesterday the Israeli-born designer showed tailored suits in fawn and cream, finely spun mohair dresses and bias-cut asymetric skirts. The evening wear had a pre-Raphaelite feel, with mottled burgundy dresses trimmed with fake fur.

At least some of the outfits are likely to find their way into Ms Booth's wardrobe. She often chooses Zilkha for the big occasions — she wore a red Zilkha suit on the day Tony Blair was elected, and gold brocade trousers and frock coat to a dinner at the White House earlier this month.

Lyndsey Booth: attended the Ronit Zilkha show

Though Ms Booth does go shopping — sometimes accompanied by Lyndsey, whom she has introduced to the Ronit Zilkha label — she also relies on Carole Caplin to fill out her wardrobe. Miss Caplin, 34, is a health and fitness trainer who also works as a personal shopper. She became a reluctant star of the 1994 Labour Party conference after the tabloids discovered that she once appeared naked on the cover of a magazine.

Yesterday Miss Caplin said she often recommended Ronit Zilkha to her clients, mostly executive women, because "she's very clever at doing very good shapes that flatter women, the clothes are reasonably priced and they last".

Betty Jackson, another favourite of working women, also showed her collection at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington yesterday. It moved from "peasant style" boiled wool dresses and jackets in burgundy and khaki to sleek black evening wear in jersey and gabardine. Jackson, known for her modern but wearable designs, also produced a series of leather pieces, including a strapless dress and an asymetric skirt.

Later, Pearce Fionda, the design duo of Reynold Pearce and Andrew Fionda, produced a stunning evening wear collection. Based on the last days of the Russian royal family, there were several religious motifs, with models clutching rosary beads, and crosses hanging down above drape backs. The show, held in the ballroom of the Grosvenor Hotel, was full of innovative cutting with asymmetric hems, criss-cross bands of fabric forming skirts and raised pleated collars.

Style, page 16

A Zilkha dress, above left, and one of the Jackson designs modelled yesterday

Son lays bare secrets of Japan's 'Gestapo'

By Gillian Harris
Scotland Correspondent

THE son of a Scots engineer who was tortured by Japan's military police during the Second World War was inspired by his father's diaries to write an account of the Kempeitai, whose wartime atrocities included the Rape of Nanking.

As a boy, Raymond Lamont-Brown learnt that his father had been the victim of torture during three years' imprisonment in the Kempeitai headquarters on the Shanghai waterfront. Later, he grew determined to find out more about the "Japanese Gestapo" and their victims who survived.

For his book, *Kempeitai — Japan's Dreaded Military Police*, he interviewed many former Kempeitai officers and reveals that many escaped punishment and some went on to hold positions of power in postwar Japanese society.

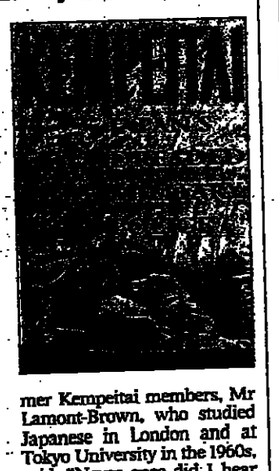
"My father's dreadful treatment always intrigued me, but he would not talk about it. He was encouraged to do so, but he always refused to give any details. What I found out came after he died, when I found his diaries where he had recorded entries about his treatment at the hands of the Kempeitai.

"There is no doubt that the experience shortened his life. He used to be a very fit man, but he went into decline both emotionally and physically," said Mr Lamont-Brown, 58, an academic who lives in Dundee. His father, James Lamont-Brown, died in 1967 in his early seventies.

He was 46 and working as a civil engineer in Shanghai when squads from the Kempeitai swept through the city, massacring the population and arresting Westerners.

He recalls in his journal the moment when the Japanese burst into his hotel room at 3am on March 5, 1942. "There was five of them. The fifth Kempeitai officer, who carried a light machinegun, ordered me to get up. Meanwhile, the other four were making a thorough search of my belongings. At the conclusion of the search, they found two of my cases filled with anti-Japanese papers and certain books."

James Lamont-Brown, whose diaries inspired his son, Raymond, to write the story of the Kempetai



James Lamont-Brown, a former athlete, was accused of spying and taken to Bridge House in Shanghai, where he was subjected various tortures and beatings with a bamboo cane. Many fellow prisoners were beheaded or killed with bayonets. Others were used as guinea pigs in tests for chemical and biological weapons.

Mr Lamont-Brown's book, which is published on March 12 by Sutton Publishing, is said to be the first to examine the Kempeitai's appalling record and expose the men who carried out the persecution, including Iwane Matsui, "the Butcher of Nanking", who ordered the execution of three million Chinese.

Of his interviews with former Kempeitai members, Mr Lamont-Brown, who studied Japanese in London and at Tokyo University in the 1960s, said: "Never once did I hear anyone admit that they had done anything wrong or express any remorse. And I find that that is still the attitude today."

The Universe will expand for ever, says Hawking

By Nick Nuttall, Techinology Correspondent

THE Universe began as a tiny particle, Stephen Hawking, the scientist and bestselling author has concluded.

The Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University has turned his attention to what might have been happening in the fraction of a second before Big Bang. Professor Hawking and Neil Turok, also of Cambridge, believe that not only was there a microscopic particle but that it was expanding in a process known as inflation just before Big Bang, a huge explosion about 12 billion years ago whose heat created the atomic particles needed for stars and galaxies to form.

Their theory, based on one put forward by Professor Hawking in 1983 and Einstein's theory of gravity, also concludes that the Universe will expand for ever.

Some scientists believe that the Universe will eventually collapse in a "big crunch". But the new theory, called Open Expansion, rejects this and claims that the Universe is infinite. Professor Turok, who holds the chair of mathematical physics, said yesterday: "It sounds rather surprising. How do you start off with a finite object that becomes infinite?"

He said the theory pointed to the Universe being cone-shaped, having started out as a dot in space and time and expanding like an ice-cream cornet over the 12 billion years.

Professor Hawking will outline the theory at a meeting next month at the California Institute of Technology.

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Why not change the way we work?

Prescott lowers limit on green belt homes

Labour wants to restore urban sites for residential development, report

Polly Newton and **Marcus Binney**

JOHN PRESCOTT will announce new measures today aimed at protecting the countryside from developers.

In a Commons statement that will be seized upon by the Tories as a government U-turn, the Deputy Prime Minister will tell MPs that a target of 60 per cent is being set for the proportion of homes to be built on urban, or "brownfield", sites.

Lord Rogers of Riverside, the Labour peer and architect of the Millennium Dome, is to head a committee identifying potential locations for housing in urban areas. It will consider the best way to restore sites to a condition acceptable for development.

Labour has said previously that new housing should be divided equally between rural and urban sites. Last November Richard Caborn, a Minister of State in the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, dismissed as "unrealistic" the suggestion that more than half of all new homes should be built on brownfield sites.

The Conservatives' election manifesto promised 60 per cent of new housing on brownfield sites but William Hague has since said that the target should be two thirds.

Three weeks ago Mr Hague went to Stevenage, site of a controversial 10,000-home development approved by the local council, to launch a campaign against building on the green belt.

Mr Prescott's statement today comes after criticism of the Government for allowing green belt development outside Newcastle upon Tyne and for failing to block a development of more than 12,000 new homes in West Sussex. Countryside campaigners, galvanised by the threat of a ban on foxhunting, have become increasingly vocal in their opposition. Next Sunday more than 100,000 people are expected to march through London in a show of support for the rural way of life.

There has also been dissent from within the Labour Party. More than 100 Labour backbenchers have signed a Commons motion saying that the countryside must be protected.

Tim Yeo, Conservative spokesman on the environment, said yesterday that a 60 per cent target would be "a step in the right direction". However he urged the Government not to introduce a tax on the development of greenfield sites. He said that would provide a financial incentive to the Treasury to argue against a ban on such developments.

Mr Yeo said Mr Prescott's decision to allow a cut of 1,000 in the number of homes planned by Dorset County Council did not go far enough. "What is needed is an immediate reversal of the decisions in West Sussex, Stevenage and Newcastle."

In another initiative to be launched today, Lord Rogers will lead a team of architects who aim to turn some of London's most derelict areas into pleasant public spaces.

The group hopes to tackle such notorious sites as the wasteland in front of Wormwood Scrubs prison, subways beneath the Great Western Road and the underside of Hammersmith flyover as well as bomb-damaged areas in West Kensington and the Riverside Walk east of Hammersmith Bridge.

The nine sites, chosen by Hammersmith and Fulham council, are to be the subject of an Architecture Foundation Roadshow in which local communities will be invited to develop firm proposals for the new parks, mostly on land owned by the council.

Londoners are being asked to consider options from fountains and works of art to special play areas and exercise trails. Lord Rogers said: "We'll even consider the humble park bench."

MARTIN BEDDALL

New commission: Lord Rogers is to head a committee identifying potential sites for housing in urban areas

Van Egeraat: has work in many countries

Architect's £100m stage

THE Royal Shakespeare Company has chosen the Dutch architect Erick van Egeraat to design a £100 million modernisation of its theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The RSC expects the Arts Council to approve a £3.2 million lottery grant for further development next month, at which point Mr van Egeraat would be formally appointed to work on what would be the largest arts project outside London funded by the lottery.

Adrian Noble, the company's artistic director, said: "Erick van Egeraat's remarkable accomplishments, in just 15 years, have made him one of the most sought-after architects of his generation. Working in India, Europe and the Czech Republic, his work has been sympathetic to each nation's culture, whilst bearing its own distinctive style and originality."

Born in 1956, Mr van Egeraat co-founded Mecanoo Architecten in Delft in 1984. His projects now being built include the Dutch Embassy in New Delhi, the Pop Stadium in Breda, Holland, the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery in Cork and the Photographers' Gallery in London.

The Stratford plan includes a reconstruction of the main theatre, the conversion of The Other Place into an education, study and media centre, and the creation of a larger studio theatre on another site.

Teachers told to set higher goals for new pupils

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SECONDARY school teachers are to be told to aim much higher with new pupils to tackle a "lost year" of achievement after primary school.

Ministers are alarmed by evidence that, in four months between taking primary school tests in May and starting secondary education in September, children's attainment slips by up to 12 months.

Research being studied by Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, has found that the decline is exacerbated by secondary teachers taking too long to find out new pupils' capabilities. The teachers set work considered boring by many pupils, who may then become disenchanted with school.

Primary teachers are to be asked to keep children working hard right up to the start of the summer holiday. This could mean changes to the relaxed end of summer term, when primary schools have sports days and plays.

Mr Byers said the first summer literacy schools to help 11-year-olds to improve their reading had revealed "dramatic" evidence of the decline in attainment between primary and secondary school. Schools will be sent two reports next month, advising on ways to improve the transfer between primary and secondary schools.

He praised a project in Suffolk that had been studied by his Standards and Effectiveness Unit. School advisers for Suffolk County Council assessed groups of pupils before, and four weeks after, they transferred to middle and secondary schools. They found that expectations of new pupils in secondary schools were generally too low and recommended improvements in the transfer of reports on children.

Schools in Suffolk have adopted a range of strategies which could be recommended nationally. These include all primary pupils spending at least a day in secondary school to familiarise themselves with the surroundings, and secondary teachers visiting feeder schools to get to know pupils before they were transferred.

Letters, page 21

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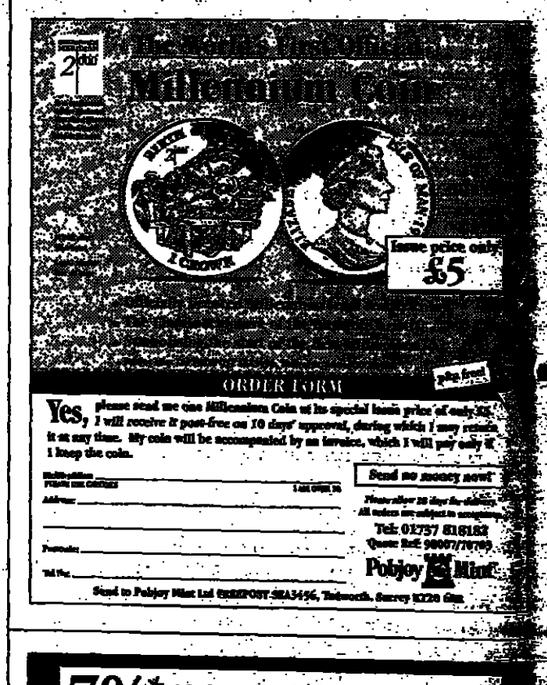

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Neolithic islanders invented drinking sessions

By Gillian Harris
Scotland Correspondent

THE first heavy drinkers in Britain were Neolithic farmers on a Hebridean island, archaeologists have discovered.

Experts who examined a 3,000-year-old site close to the Callanish standing stones on Lewis believe that the islanders were the first Britons to indulge in the "ritualistic and habitual" use of alcohol.

Their apparent fondness for drink and their known fascination with the Moon suggested that alcohol was an important part of their lives, said Dr Geraint Coles, an environmental archaeologist at Edinburgh University. He said: "There is a theory that they were a cult who based their lives around the ritualistic and habitual use of alcohol."

Evidence to support his view was uncovered by engineers from Hydro Electric, who stumbled upon the farm site when they were laying power lines. They discovered numerous drinking vessels buried in the peat.

Archaeologists found that they contained traces of a potent beer made from heather, and a honey-based mead. They are also thought to have created a crude form of whisky. The farmers also grew wheat to grind into flour, kept sheep and cattle, fished and hunted deer.

They are also thought to have erected the Callanish standing stones, arranged in the shape of a Celtic cross. The enormous slabs — some more than 16ft high and weighing six tons — have a burial cairn at their centre and are in line with the rising and setting of the Moon.

Help yourself, £2.3m donor told the Tate

A collector's treasury of works by Warhol and 30 other artists, largely crated up at her home for lack of space, will go on view tomorrow, reports Dalya Alberge

WHEN one of the largest donations of art to the Tate goes on display at the gallery tomorrow, the woman who made the £2.3 million gift will be seeing them for the first time in years.

The paintings, sculptures and photographs, including works by Warhol and Gilbert and George, had been stored in crates since being bought by Janet Wolfson de Botton, one of Britain's two most prominent collectors of contemporary art.

Lack of space at her London home means that only a fraction of her collection has ever been out. But Ms de Botton, 45, said that she could remember how they looked: "I have a good visual memory."

Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate, said that she had allowed the Tate to take its pick of her collection, including works by Richard Long, Bill Woodrow and Cindy Sherman. Mr Serota examined more than 250 works and selected about 60 by 30 artists for the largest gift to the Tate in more than 25 years. "Initially, when we discussed this, I thought that it would be perhaps ten works. 'No,' she said, 'take as much as the Tate could use.' It's an extraordinary thing for someone to do."

Many of the works would fill "gaping holes" in the Tate's collection, Mr Serota said. One of them is Woodrow's *Elephant*, a circle of car doors overlooked by an elephant head holding a rifle in its trunk: "It's a very important piece, a very visible demonstration of his concern with the destruction of the planet and with animal and wildlife."

Two pieces are by Carl Andre, the minimalist whose name is synonymous with bricks. Ms de Botton's donation of his sculpture in metal "shows him to be much more sensual than just a man who makes a rather dry brick sculpture", Mr Serota said.

He was dismayed that Britain had less than a handful of people building up important private collections of contemporary art. We were put to shame by the United States, Japan and most of Europe. "There are just two or three here, but there are 50 women like Janet collecting in New York alone."

Some of the best private collections eventually make their way to public museums that can no longer afford to buy such art.

Ms de Botton, a Tate trustee, began collecting in the late 1970s, buying works from the mid-1960s to the most recent. She is following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Sir Isaac Wolfson, one of the country's most prominent retailers and philanthropists. She is married to Gilbert de Botton, head of Global Asset Management and father of the writer Alain de Botton from an earlier marriage.

Explaining why she allowed the gallery to help itself from her collection, she said: "Once I'd decided I wanted a sizeable chunk to go to the Tate, it was the only possible way of doing it. It was not a case of wanting to get rid of things I was bored of. Whatever they chose meant something."

Her bias is towards abstract art. "I have no interest in narrative art of this century. I have never bought it. My buying impulses have been restricted to art of the late 20th century."

Caro interview, page 18

Gift includes Gilbert and George's *Deatho Knocko*

RICHARD POHLE

Janet Wolfson de Botton let the gallery choose from items in storage at her home

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman suspended after killing

PC Chris Silverwood, of Sussex Police's special operations unit, has been suspended from duty after a fatal shooting. The Police Complaints Authority is supervising an investigation.

James Ashley, 39, from Merseyside, who was convicted of manslaughter in 1992, was killed when armed officers investigating drug-dealing stormed his flat at St Leonards last month.

Sex offender, 12

A boy of 12 has become the youngest person to be placed on the Sex Offenders' Register. The boy, from Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, had admitted indecently assaulting two children aged six and seven.

M25 death

An unnamed man died when he was hit by a car as he tried to cross the M25 on foot near the M40 junction in Buckinghamshire on Saturday night. The driver and passenger of the car, a Rover, suffered slight injuries.

Good to squawk

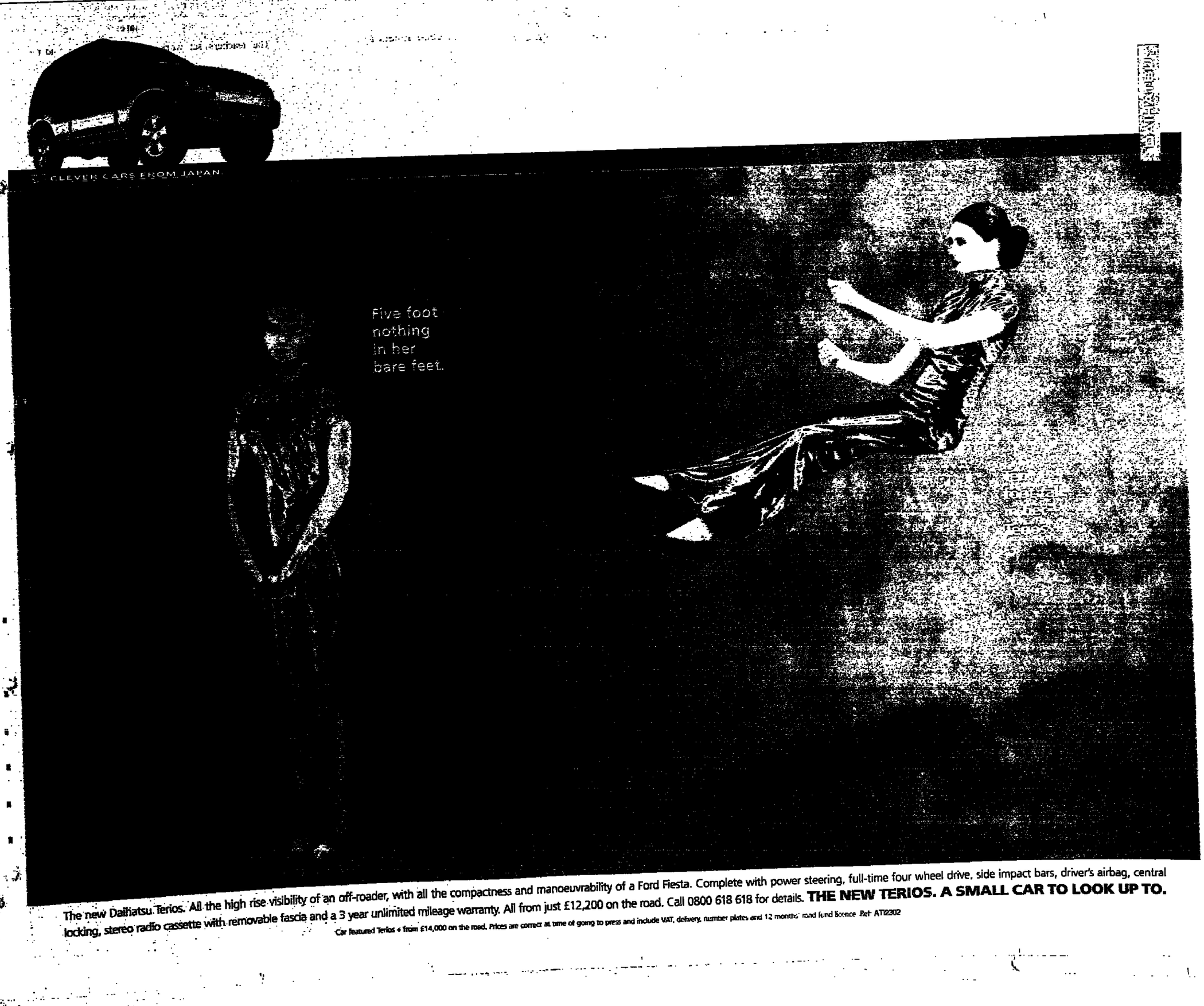
Nesting boxes for owls and hawks, attached to telecommunication masts in Cambridgeshire, have been so successful that the scheme is being extended. More than 1,000 of 3,000 boxes have been occupied by barn owls.

Boys arrested

Four boys aged 10 and 11 have been arrested after fire badly damaged Tameside Junior and Infants' School in Wednesbury, West Midlands. The boys have been released while police investigations continue.

Curtain raisers

The RNLI in Devon has raised hundreds of pounds from collections outside cinemas showing *Titanic*. Mary Jenner, from the RNLI, said: "People who have just seen the film are more aware of what can happen at sea."



Army wants air cavalry to head updated force

Far-reaching reform plans allow for swift action in war or peace, reports

Michael Evans

A BLUEPRINT for restructuring the Army that includes an "air cavalry" is to be presented to ministers. Army chiefs are proposing to merge The Parachute Regiment with units of Apache attack helicopters to create the new operational brigade.

The plan for a new Army is intended to provide highly trained brigades that would be ready at 30 days' notice to fulfil peacekeeping commitments and participate in high-intensity wars at the same time. It is one of the most far-reaching packages to come before George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, as part of the strategic defence review. He is expected to make his recommendations to Cabinet by April.

However, it could be another three months before the Government announces the results, because Mr Robertson's recommendations will have to be assessed within the overall spending plans.

Under the blueprint, the Army would be expected to lose up to 20 of its complement of tanks, bringing the total to 380. This would place the British Army 45th in the world in terms of tank numbers. However, the tanks that remained would operate in a different way. The army chiefs are understood to have proposed having centralised stores of Challenger 2 tanks kept in an operational state, probably at strategic ports.

At present there are five armoured or mechanised brigades, three in Germany as part of the 1st Armoured Division, and two in the United Kingdom, part of the 3rd UK Division. The Army has proposed that, to meet all the new commitments, six armoured/mechanised brigades would be needed, three in Germany and three in the United Kingdom, and that 5 Airborne Brigade, the lightly equipped formation in Aldershot that is based on the three parachute battalions, should be converted into a Fifth Mechanised Brigade to give it more punch.

The most dramatic proposal is that The Parachute Regiment be merged with the 24 Airmobile Brigade, based in Colchester. With the arrival in service in 2000 of the new Apache Longbow attack helicopter, the Paras and the Apaches would form a potent force.

The Colchester brigade currently has anti-tank Lynx helicopters. The Paras would retain their parachuting capability and the new air cavalry brigade would be earmarked as a strategic formation capable of fitting into any expeditionary force.

Under the restructuring, there would be fewer tank regiments. At present there are eight, each with 50 tanks, currently the Challenger I that was effective in the 1991 Gulf War but is no longer sufficiently reliable. The ministry is buying 380 Challenger 2s to replace them. There are now also advanced simulation systems used for training tank crews.

The changes would bring considerable savings, which is why the Army is hopeful that ministers will approve them. However, there remain concerns that under the previous two defence reviews held by the Conservative Government — Options for Change and Frontline First — the logistical and communications support services were cut back too far with the result that many of the regiments are incapable of sustaining operations for any length of time.

The blueprint for the changes is understood to include a recommendation that some of these cuts must be reversed which will mean the Army recruiting more personnel for the support services.

An Apache Longbow attack helicopter, right. Army chiefs believe that, used in combination with The Parachute Regiment, it could be a potent weapon

Robertson: changes will have to be within budget

Treatment for farmed salmon highly toxic

BY NICK NUTTALL

A CHEMICAL used to treat farmed salmon has been found to be highly toxic to marine life. The scientists who have made the finding have said that the chemical, ivermectin, should be withdrawn.

"Until its environmental effects are better understood, it is difficult to justify the continued release of ivermectin," Alastair Grant, of the University of East Anglia, said.

The substance is used to kill sea lice, which can destroy stocks of farmed salmon. Dr Grant and his co-worker, Andrew Biggs, have found that two species of crustaceans begin to die with only tiny concentrations of ivermectin. The affected creatures are crucial to the food chain and Dr Grant said it was likely that other species would be affected.

Research by the Fisheries Research Laboratory in Aberdeen has also found that ivermectin has a significant impact on lugworms, another important species in the marine environment.

The basking shark: sightings have dropped sharply

Protection for basking shark

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest fish, the basking shark, is likely to be protected after fears that it may be in decline. Sightings in Scottish waters have dropped over the past seven years from more than 140 a year to barely 20.

Conservationists have been pressing for the shark, hunted off Scotland until two years ago for oil and meat, to be listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The Department of the Environment said yesterday: "It is likely to be listed. The recommendation is before ministers and an announcement will be made soon."

David Wilson, of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, which has campaigned vigorously for the 35ft shark, said that the reason for the decline was unknown.

The giant plankton-eating fish disappeared from Britain's seas at the turn of the century, but came back in the 1930s in vast numbers, which led to an order in 1937 by the Scottish Office that trawlers should ram the shark to control its numbers. Apart from Scottish waters, its other main haunts are the coasts of Devon and Cornwall.

"So little is known about the basking shark," Mr Wilson said. "We do not know how long it gestates its young for — there has only been one record of an observed birth — or even if it is migratory or resident in British waters. They are awe-inspiring creatures and a total enigma. If we can get a proper government-sponsored programme in place, it will be an important step in ensuring their survival."

This summer Durham University students will try to attach satellite transmitters to the sharks off the Isle of Arran in an attempt to track their movements and learn about their feeding habits.

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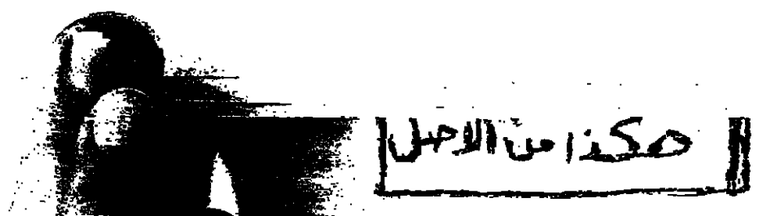

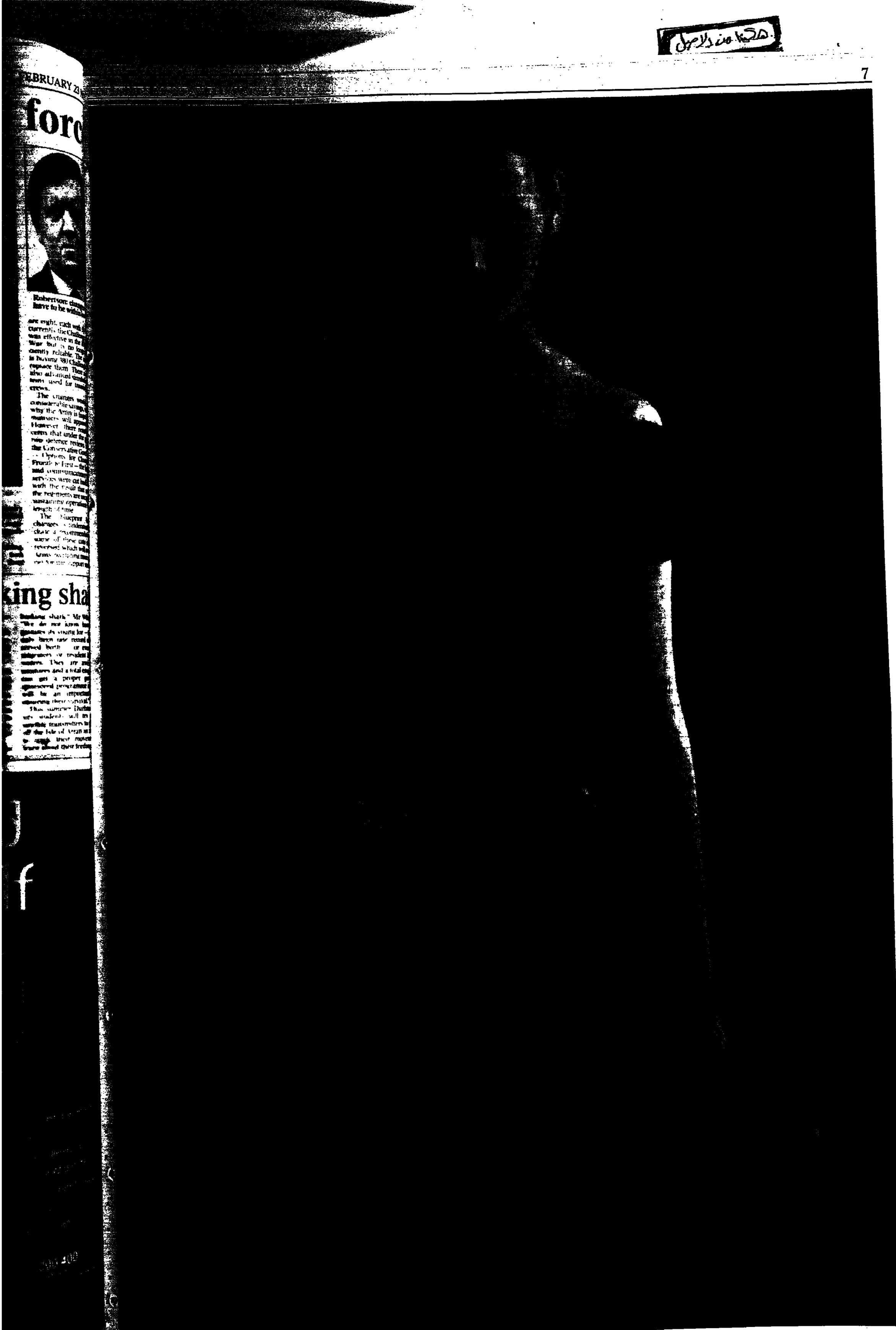
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Wanted: media chief to modernise royals

Palace job advertisement looks beyond rarefied world of the old school tie, writes **Andrew Pierce**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE is to advertise for a high-powered director of communications who will work directly for the Queen. It will be the first time that such a senior post in the Royal Household, which will carry a six-figure salary, has been advertised in the national press.

A grace-and-favour apartment at St James's Palace will be included. The appointment was agreed by the Queen after focus groups commissioned by the Palace following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, showed that the Royal Family was seen to be outdated, out of touch, and badly advised. Downing Street, which has been a decisive influence in recent moves to try to modernise the Royal Family, will welcome the decision.

The post will be advertised before Easter, and head-hunters will be used to ensure suitably qualified candidates apply for the post. Previously, senior public relations officers at Buckingham Palace have been career diplomats. But the ground-breaking appointment will go beyond the "old school tie" network.

Applications will be encouraged for the first time from the public sector, the public relations industry and Fleet Street. A substantial figure with long experience in the media is being sought. Last night there was intense speculation in royal circles over who might become the Palace's first director of communications.

Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the former editor of *The Daily Express*, who has now moved into public relations, is one name which was being mentioned. Belinda Harley, a public relations expert who has worked for the Prince of Wales and is also known to other leading members of the Royal Family, would be ideally qualified. The appointment of a woman is seen as having much to commend it.

Charles Anson, a former press secretary to the Queen, could also consider a return. Mr Anson is a diplomat by training who had a two-year spell in public relations before being tempted back into public service as the Queen's press secretary in 1990. He guided the monarchy through one of its most turbulent periods.

Geoff Crawford, the current press secretary to the Queen, would also be in the running. Mr Crawford, an Australian diplomat who has been at the Palace since 1988, succeeded Mr Anson. He is highly regarded for his smooth style and sound advice.

Charles Lewington, the director of communications for the Conservative Party until the last election, could also be a contender. But the fact that on May 1 the Tories suffered their worst defeat for more than 150 years could militate against the debonair Mr Lewington's chances.

A number of former senior figures in the Government Information Service who were ousted with the arrival of the Labour government would bring unrivalled knowledge of the workings of Whitehall and the broadcast and news media.

The decision to appoint a communications director is an admission by the Palace that more has to be done to bolster public understanding of the work of the Royal Family. Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary who stands down later this year and has been criticised by many modernisers as an obstacle to progress, has endorsed the idea.

The role of Queen's press secretary will remain but the entire public relations department will be reorganised, with the director of communications having overall control.

Archer's new shot at reform

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD ARCHER of Weston-super-Mare will this week relaunch his campaign to introduce sexual equality into the line of succession to the throne.

He will urge peers to back his Succession to the Crown Bill which would end the 800-year tradition of royal primogeniture under which the eldest son of the monarch automatically becomes heir, even if he has an elder sister. The Bill comes up for its second reading in the Lords on Friday.

Peers traditionally allow Private Member's Bills introduced in the Lords to progress to the Commons. However, some hereditary peers are likely to oppose the Bill, which they believe is an unnecessary change, and could demand that the matter put to a vote. If this happens, both front benches are expected to allow peers a free vote.

Buckingham Palace said that, while the Queen neither supported nor opposed the move, she had no principled objection. A spokesman said the Bill was a matter entirely for Parliament and made clear that, if it were passed, the current line of succession would be unaffected.

Lord Archer, the novelist and former Tory deputy chairman, emphasised that his Bill would have no impact until Prince William were to have children.

Joe Mitty in the Oxford premises. As the first manager, he sold cars, a donkey and a Rolling Stones guitar

First Oxfam shop rings up 50 years

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE original Oxfam shop celebrates its 50th anniversary on Friday. The premises in Broad Street, Oxford, which went on to sell one of Harold Wilson's Gannex mackintoshes and a Rolling Stones guitar, are believed to have been the first charity shop in Britain.

Today, more than 6,500 charity shops are doing business on the country's high streets, with a total turnover of £312 million. Last year, Oxfam's 830 shops raised £16.5 million, nearly a quarter of the charity's income.

Joe Mitty, a 78-year-old great-grandfather who was the shop's first manager, will attend the celebration on Friday, when guests will wear 1948 dress, listen to Forties music and eat Spam sandwiches.

First employed on a salary of £425 a year to turn the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief's collecting centre into a fundraising shop, Mr Mitty acquired a reputation as a man who could sell anything for a good cause. When cars were donated, he would park them outside with a "For Sale" sign.

Other goods proved more problematic. "In the early 1960s, we were using a post office in Great Missenden as a reception centre," he said. "A lady came in and said she had something for us outside. There was a donkey tethered to a lamppost. I couldn't exactly take it back to the shop, so we put a 'For Sale' sign on it. We sold it then and there for £12 10s."

Clothes, the mainstay of Oxfam's trading, were not on sale in the early years, as the charity's chief work was shipping garments to needy countries. It began to sell second-hand fashion in the 1960s, fuelling an expansion.

The Oxford shop, which started with two members of staff and an annual turnover of £1,500, now raises £250,000 a year and has 35 volunteers and a paid manager.

Welsh church looks at marrying divorcees

Bishops to consider change, reports **Ruth Gledhill**

THE Anglican Church in Wales is to change its law to allow divorcees to remarry in church. The change could pave the way for the Church of England to follow suit.

The Church in Wales will set a lead when bishops propose the change at the meeting of its ruling body in Dyfed in April. The Church in Wales is expected to approve the change when its governing body meets at the University of Wales in Lampeter.

This will give clergy the freedom to marry divorced couples in church. Although the change will take longer to process in the Church of England, it is being considered by a working party set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. The working group, which will agree recommendations to take to the bishops and from there to the General Synod, is watching "with great interest" the deliberations in Wales.

The status of the Prince of Wales is not a factor in the considerations. The bishops and theologians in Wales and England are more concerned about the thousands of church members whose marriages collapse for reasons beyond their control but who are subsequently denied a fresh start with a Christian remarriage.

At present the position of both Anglican churches is that marriage is for life, although only in the Church of England is it laid down in canon law that second marriages for divorcees should not take place in church.

A 1957 Act of Convocation states that the Church should not allow the use of the marriage service "in the case of anyone who has a former partner still living".

Many clergy get around that by offering a service of blessing after a civic ceremony. And although clergy under secular law are entitled to marry divorcees in church, they will usually seek the guidance of their bishop.

Most bishops feel obliged publicly to follow the official line when advising clergy, although privately many disagree. The fate of many couples regarding whether they can marry in church often can depend solely on where they happen to live and the views of their priest or bishop. The Church of England allows clergy to remarry and permits the ordination of divorcees in some circumstances.

A senior source in the Church in Wales indicated that the Welsh bishops were ready to press ahead with change. The last time the issue came up before the Welsh governing body, it suffered a surprise defeat by two votes.

This will not force clergy to remarry divorcees against their wishes or their conscience, but will for the first time give them the freedom to use their own discretion.

Melinda is the message to lure young tourists

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE charms of Melinda Messenger are being used to persuade young overseas tourists that Britain is the place to be. The page three girl appears in the latest British Tourist Authority guide beside the words: "The bigger the boobs, the blonder the barnet, the better the babe."

Tourist chiefs maintain that younger visitors hold the key to Britain's long-term tourist success and that one way to entice them over is to focus on big personalities, such as Ms Messenger's, with whom they may identify.

The authority's latest campaign follows successful publication of a map in the shape of a guitar featuring a list of almost 70 towns and cities with details of their positions in the history of rock and pop — such as Liverpool, and, rather less obviously, Authorpe in Lincolnshire where the mother of Corinne Drewery, of Swing Out Sister, once ran a hedgehog hospital.

Melinda Messenger: helping tourism

Cynics might scoff at the latest publicity in the BTA publication *UK: The Guide*, of which 340,000 copies will be distributed at 43 offices around the world — but the authority usually gets it right. Last year Britain attracted a record number of overseas tourists despite poor exchange rates for foreigners. The figure of more than 26 million was 3 per cent up on the record year of 1995, and enabled the United Kingdom to hang on to fifth place in the world's top tourist destinations table.

Aiming at the even younger, the new guide also features "the sweets that built Britain", including favourites such as blackjacks, fruit salads, aniseed balls and licorice comfits.

But old habits die hard. The guide, the third to be brought out by the BTA, also relies on the mysteries of the British table to entice tourists. Mushy peas are part of the fare offered by transport cafes, whose culinary delights are highlighted. These cafes are seen as places full of "truckers' beans and a squidgy ketchup dispenser", says the guide.

Drug-free asthma treatment a success

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A DEVICE that can help to counter shortness of breath in older people without using drugs can also relieve asthma, scientists said yesterday.

The device, called Powerbreathe, can significantly reduce breathlessness during excercise while improving overall lung function in asthma patients, tests have found.

Asthma is traditionally treated with steroid drugs in inhalers and tablet-form. The new device offers a drug-free alternative, according to a team led by Dr Alison McConnell, director of the Birmingham University's Sports Medicine and Human Performance Unit.

Their findings will be revealed at the Third National Conference on Asthma Education and Management in London which starts tomorrow.

The device consists of a hand-held control and a tube to the mouth through which the sufferer breathes, exercising and strengthening the inspiratory muscles. The control allows the user to "tighten" the device, making the lungs work harder.

Dr McConnell said initial analysis of results of tests carried out before and after the training period showed a marked improvement in lung function. They also showed an 11.4 per cent increase in the strength of the test group's inspiratory muscles, while breathlessness during exercise had decreased by 12.4 per cent.

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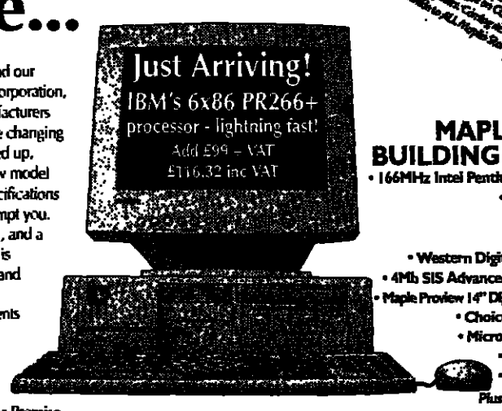

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Dream of a life pulling pints goes flat

The contest is pure genius, but the reality is more sobering. Audrey Magee reports

JOHN COGILL

Time, please: Suzanne and Doug Knight at their pub in Cahir, Co Tipperary. "It is a great thing to do, but not for ever," he said

IT HAS all the ingredients of a dream come true – a competition winner is whisked from a dull routine laden with debt into a pub in an Irish village to while away the days chatting to customers and pulling pints.

But for most of the American winners of a competition run by Guinness, the dream soon turned into a nightmare of late nights, lonely days and a perpetual cycle of drunks and dirty glasses. Only the most recent of the four winners remains in Ireland; two sold up within 15 months while the fourth is considering an offer for his pub in Bantry, Co Cork.

The annual Win Your Own Pub in Ireland competition, which takes place this year in May and offers a pub in Co Clare, has been running since 1994. It creates a frenzy in America, particularly in Irish areas such as Boston, where people dream of returning to the home country.

Up to 60,000 people enter by writing a 50-word eulogy to Guinness, making it the most effective promotion run by the company in the United States. Ten of the best writers are flown to Ireland to compete in a darts and pint-pulling contest.

But the simplicity of the competition is not reflected in the lifestyle that follows. Jay Mulligan was 27 when he won in 1994. A fan of the Boston Red Sox, he found the separation from family, friends and Oreo cookies unbearable and sold his pub in Cobh, Co Cork, to return to Boston.

Shann Weston, the 1996 winner, found a pub in Co Clare a less-than-healthy environment for her two daughters and sold in October. Frank Gallagher, a retired salesman who won in 1995, spends spring and summer in his Bantry pub but moves back to Florida in winter. He hires a manager in his absence.

"It has been an unbelievable experience, but you can't get good pizza pie in Bantry and, as I am heading for 70, I suppose it is time to consider selling up," he said.

The departure of the Gallaghers would leave only last year's winners in Ireland. Doug and Suzanne Knight, from Minnesota, were presented with Morrissey's, a 200-year-old, six-bedroomed, wood-panelled pub on the banks of the River Suir in Cahir, Co Tipperary, in May. Mr Knight, 32, believes his decision to serenade the Guinness as it settled during the pint-pulling competition clinched their victory.

"For us, it really is a dream. We were barely making rent and only scraping by. I was doing freelance work on top of my job and Suzanne was doing two jobs and we were both at school. It was hard," Mr Knight, who worked as a recording engineer, said.

And the new life is hard, too, he admits. He finds it difficult to close at the legal hour and to deal repeatedly with drunks. "They just don't want to go home. Sometimes you are having a good time and don't want them to, but most of the time you just want to go to bed," Mr Knight said. He and his wife intend staying in Cahir, home to 2,500 people and 26 pubs, for no more than five years, by which time they hope to have devised the perfect way of calling time and to have paid all their debts, including the US prize tax, amounting to about 30 per cent of the pub's value.

"It is a great thing to do for a while, but not for ever. I want to get back to a city where you can get a burrito at three in the morning," Mr Knight said.

Boy of 3 is star at sheepdog trials

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

A BOY of three has been using dogs twice his age to herd sheep double his size in sheepdog trials.

A hush fell on the Lancashire sheepdog trial last month when Philip Mellin took control of the herd, said his mother. He had been practising since being given a sheepdog whistle instead of a dummy when a baby, she said, and begged to be allowed to perform. "The judge agreed to let him while they sorted out the results, and he put on his flat cap, got his stick and eventually penned them up."

Philip now helps his parents as they work the dogs at their farm in Oakworth, West Yorkshire. He carries a shepherd's crook inscribed with his name. "Experienced men are gobsmacked," his mother said. "They come just to listen to him blow his whistle."

Sale of Oxford chemical firms to raise £200m

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Dwek: founder of Oxford GlycoSciences

OXFORD University will float two chemical companies next month, which are expected to raise up to £200 million.

They are Oxford GlycoSciences, where scientists are carrying out trials of a drug treatment for liver cancer, and Oxford Asymmetry International, which has grown in six years from five to 150 staff, who develop complex chemicals for pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

The money raised by the stock market flotation, on March 10, will be split between the university and the companies' financial backers. Although the development of such companies is seen as a money-spinner for the university, the sell-off has to be seen against the KPMG report for the North Commission, the review published last month on the university's future, which said that Oxford's surplus of £76 million in 1995-96 could turn into a £90 million deficit by 2005, if present conditions continued.

Oxford GlycoSciences was founded in 1988 by Professor Raymond Dwek, director of the university's Glycobiology Institute. Its flotation is expected to raise £75 million to £100 million. The company specialises in producing technology for drug companies to help to identify proteins that act as molecular markers for specific diseases. In another direct benefit for the university, the company has already provided £1.5 million in grants for seven research posts at the Glycobiology Institute.

Oxford Asymmetry International was founded in 1992 by Professor Stephen Davies to market chemical synthesis technology. It is based at Abingdon in Oxfordshire and is valued at £100 million. Two out of five of its 150 staff are doctorate-level chemists.

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Prison officers threaten to strike for union rights

BY RICHARD FORD AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Prison Service is facing the threat of industrial action over the Government's refusal to restore trade union rights to the Prison Officers' Association.

An emergency delegate conference of the association will be held at TUC headquarters in Central London today to discuss collective action in defiance of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. This bans prison officers from going on strike, and is underwritten by the threat of sequestration of funds and unlimited fines.

The conference, which will be addressed by John Monks, the TUC general secretary, will condemn the Government for reneging on promises, made while Labour was in opposition, to restore union rights to the 29,000 prison officers and to halt the privatisation of prisons. Mark Healy, the association's national chairman, said yesterday: "We feel badly let down by the Government. We had been prepared to live with the constraints introduced by the previous Government, knowing from promises made to us by Tony Blair and Jack Straw that they would be lifted when Labour came to power.

"The vast majority of disputes are not to do with pay or reducing the working week. They are about health and safety issues; my members do an extremely dangerous job. We want to be treated like other public sector workers, with the right to take industrial action."

The threat of industrial action coincided with an announcement that prison officers would be offered a pay review body in return for losing the right to take action. The offer will be accompanied by a proposal from the Prison Service to introduce binding arbitration to settle other major disputes and grievances in the 140 jails in England and Wales. Mr Healy said the association was prepared to discuss the two initiatives, but neither met its needs.

Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, disclosed the plan as the 300 delegates prepared for the emergency conference. He said: "Any group of staff who are not able to take disruptive action are disadvantaged. We want to put in place other mechanisms to provide some protection for them."

He said the Government and the Prison Service wanted an independent way of dealing with pay, similar to the review bodies for the Armed Forces and the police. He added that he wanted Acas to be involved in drawing up proposals for a system of binding arbitrations for grievances.

But Mr Tilt made clear that he would not tolerate industrial action in jails, which currently hold 64,530 prisoners. "It can be a very dangerous business to take industrial action in a prison service, as there could be a loss of control or security." In 1997 there were unofficial disputes at Wormwood Scrubs and Wandsworth prisons in South London, but Mr Tilt said that they ended after a day, when the Prison Service gave a warning that it would seek injunctions under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

Today's meeting follows Mr Straw's announcement earlier this month that the Government would not reverse Conservative legislation outlawing industrial action. Mr Tilt refused to comment on suggestions that the association's leadership was out of touch with its membership, but he recognised the strength of feeling on its national executive committee.

James Tissot's 1877 etching *Mavourneen*, his nickname for Kathleen Newton

The artist with his sick lover, who died aged 28

Love engraved on an artist's heart

BY JOHN VINCENT

A COLLECTION of etchings that recalls the tragic affair between the French artist James Tissot and his Irish mistress, Kathleen Newton, is expected to fetch up to £150,000 at Sotheby's in London next month.

The 70 prints, assembled by the American connoisseur Michael Wentworth, reflect the importance to Tissot of the woman he portrayed incessantly until her death from consumption, at the age of 28, in 1882.

She was sent as a 16-year-old orphan to India and, on the way, fell in love with an Indian Army captain. But on arrival, she became the wife of a doctor in a prearranged marriage.

She soon left him for the captain, who abandoned her when she became pregnant. The doctor generously paid for her return to England, where she joined her sister in St John's Wood, North London. Tissot was a close neighbour.

Baptised Jacques Joseph Tissot, the painter (1836-1902) was influenced by Degas, fled France to escape political turmoil and lived mostly in England for 11 years from 1871.

The works being offered on March 25 include *Portrait of Mrs N*, a dry point engraving of Kathleen with a faraway expression, and a print entitled *Mavourneen*, Tissot's nickname for her.

Her influence lingered long after her death: *The Apparition*, a mezzotint from 1885 estimated at £1,800, illustrates a seance in which beams of light emanate from the hands of two figures. Photographs in the sale include Tissot on a bench in his garden with his arm around a frail, ill-looking Kathleen.

Plan to cut police corpse allowance

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SPECIAL allowance for police officers who have to search and fingerprint dead bodies is under threat in a package of proposed pay reforms. Other benefits to go could include payments for CID who wear their own clothes instead of uniform, and up to £5 for "entertaining" informants.

Officers who search the dead currently receive £25 for one body or £17 a time if there is more than one. In London, the job is usually carried out by Scotland Yard's River Police, whose tasks also include the disinterment of murder victims.

The reform proposals have been put by Home Office and local government negotiators to national police representatives. In return for giving up allowances and overtime payments, all officers would receive an extra £75 per year. The pay of some trainee officers would also be increased.

Mike Cann, the senior negotiator, said he recognised that searching corpses was unpleasant work. However, he thought that few officers bothered to claim for such small sums. The payment was out of keeping with a modern, professional service.

Dog handlers currently receive between £1,059 and £1,443 a year for each dog kept at home. They are allowed to leave work one hour early to groom and exercise their animals. They also receive a mileage allowance for travelling to work. The pay plan proposes to replace these with a flat annual payment of £1,500.

The plans would also cut some payments for meals on duty, for travelling time when recalled to duty, and extra payments for starting work early after a day off.

Game show 'king' joins ratings war

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE man known as the King of Game Shows is coming to Britain to create a scratchcard programme for commercial television to compete with the BBC's revamped lottery show.

The arrival of Jonathan Goodson, who has produced *The Price is Right* and *Blankety Blank* in America, will alarm those MPs, clergymen and charities who are already worried that broadcasters are encouraging gambling.

The House of Commons Culture Select Committee will ask the BBC this week to justify *The National Lottery Big Ticket Show*, which begins in March and will feature studio games based on Camelot's Instants scratchcards.

Mr Goodson is working with Littlewoods, whose Lotto charity cards claim 5 per cent of the British scratchcard market. The pools firm will shortly issue a card for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, but has yet to decide whether her cause should be promoted on the show.

Mr Goodson's formula involves bringing scratchcard winners into a studio to play games of strategy and chance.

Security camera footage may be banned from TV

BY ADRIAN LEE

BROADCASTERS could be banned from using video footage from security cameras to make entertainment programmes, the Government said yesterday. Ministers fear that a surge in the number of programmes and videos featuring unwitting members of the public could undermine confidence in closed-circuit television.

Legislation would prohibit the prurient use of material, including car crashes, but still allow police to broadcast the film to catch criminals.

There are more than 450 security camera schemes in public places. By 2000 it is estimated that there will be 250,000 cameras in operation.

Alun Michael, the Home Office Minister, said yesterday that broadcasters should not use them to make people figures of fun. The Government was consulting on how to regulate the private security industry and any changes in the rules for closed-circuit television would be in the same Bill.

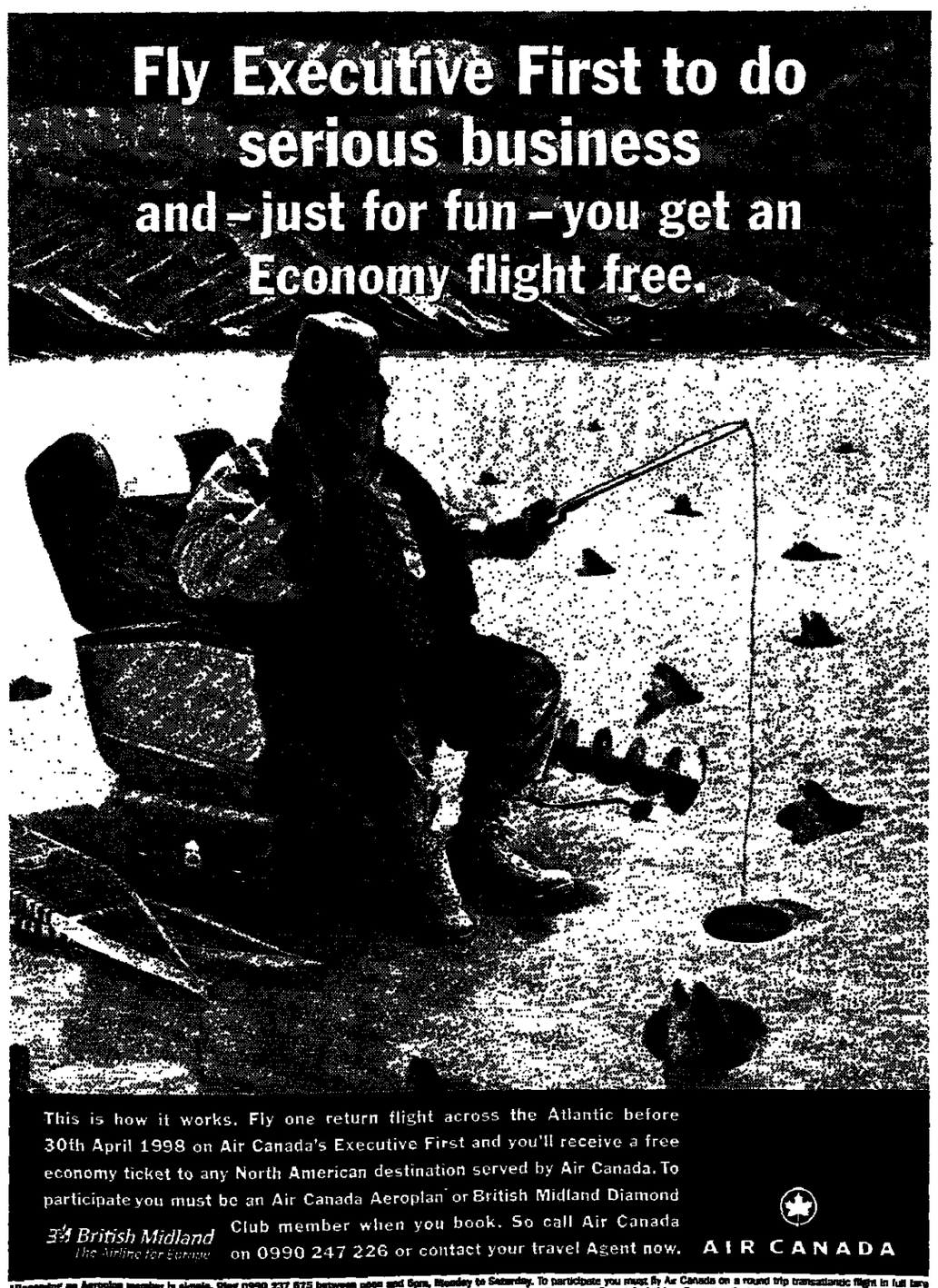
Mr Michael said: "I think in general the public are quite happy with the idea of CCTV being used so the police can act quickly." But he was concerned at the growing use of video footage for "entertainment and titillation".

Mr Michael's comments follow a report published last week by a House of Lords committee calling for greater control over surveillance systems in public places. The Home Office has provided £50 million for cameras.

Under the current code of practice, anyone receiving government money must agree not to use footage for commercial gain, but private companies are not bound by the code.

The use of closed-circuit television has been credited with cutting crime. In Bournemouth, vandalism fell from costing £220,000 a year to £36,000 after cameras were installed, and other towns have reported similar trends. But their use has been attacked by civil rights groups. Last year, a man from Brentwood, Essex, unsuccessfully sued his local council after it released video footage of his suicide attempt.

Films featuring "real life" footage have included one showing prostitutes working on the street.



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Yoke of poverty drives farmers to commit suicide

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN HYDERABAD

MORE than 100 cotton farmers in southern India, among thousands devastated by crop failure, have committed suicide in the past month to escape poverty and moneylenders — further proof of the failure of seven years of economic reforms to help the chronically poor. Never has the nation's divide between rich and poor been so wide.

Close to the devastation, the ancient city of Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh, grows prosperous from high-tech industries. It is a different world from the countryside, whose impoverished occupants are reeling from reduced subsidies on electricity, fertilisers and seeds.

Thirteen people, including a policeman, died yesterday in violent incidents as India went to the polls for the second phase of its national elections. The polling day — 200 million people were eligible to vote — **INDIAN ELECTIONS** coincided with new reports of farmers' suicides, hammering home the message that economic liberalisation may have created a class of urban rich but has failed to reach the lowest levels. Almost half of India's 970 million people remain in poverty.

Government officials visiting blighted areas are besieged by farmers and their families. But no help is given, and people are cynical about promises of future aid.

State banks in Andhra Pradesh are tight with funds and an experiment in rural banking has collapsed, forcing farmers to turn to moneylenders at more than 30 per cent interest. Cotton farms have been devastated by caterpillars. The state government has given cash to some of the farmers' widows, most of which was seized by creditors.

The crisis reveals a lack of investment in small, local economies as well as in agriculture. Poor education means farmers cannot read the instructions on pesticide containers, leading to catastrophic under- or over-spraying. Lack of low-cost loans keeps people on the edge of financial ruin.

Andhra Pradesh is rich compared with some other parts of India. It is increasingly industrialised, is fertile and is mostly well irrigated with abundant natural resources. Destitution amid such prosperity demonstrates lopsided growth patterns that could bring social upheaval.

Poverty increased sharply immediately after reforms were introduced in 1991. The pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party promises to adjust the reforms to ensure that India receives only productive foreign investment. Yet, despite the hype, there is little foreign investment of any kind in India — corruption, political instability, bad roads, unreliable electricity and decrepit telephones keep investors out. So does uncertainty about future economic and political directions, emphasised yesterday by dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh state government in northern India, a politically influential state of 130 million. It was run by the BJP, whose leader Atal Vajpayee, immediately started what he called a "fast to the death" in protest.

The state government was toppled in what appears to have been a classic case of intrigue, doubtless fuelled by money. It will add to despair at home and abroad about the state of Indian politics.

Leading article, page 21

KRISHAN MURARI KISHAN/ REUTERS

Indian police beat a man accused of disturbing voters at Madpur in the state of Bihar yesterday

Despot's hoard of presents for sale

Bucharest: Romania's ailing treasury vaults could receive a windfall from an unexpected source — the worldwide sale of presents given to Nicolae Ceausescu, the late dictator, by kings, queens and presidents (Sean Hillen writes).

Thousands of artefacts that the maverick Communist ruler received during his 22 years in power have been housed in the National Museum of History since the revolution in December 1986.

The collection includes gifts from members of the Royal Family, gold and silver ornaments from the Vatican and Egypt, swords from Morocco, vases with mother of pearl designs, ivory gifts from African leaders and even a piece of lunar rock collected by the crew of *Apollo 11*.

There are hundreds of porcelain vases and a collection of hats including sombreros and stetsons.

Botha poised to turn tables on truth commission

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

AFTER a last-minute intervention by President Mandela, uncertainty hangs over the appearance in court today of P. W. Botha, the former President, who faces a charge of contempt after his refusal to obey a subpoena to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa.

Mr Mandela, desperate to avoid a confrontation which might leave his predecessor, 82, facing a jail sentence, has had the entire Botha family to lunch at his official residence to try to persuade Mr Botha to co-operate. The President has even offered to accompany Mr Botha to the commission.

However, Mr Botha is expected to stick to his position, which has won him new popularity among Afrikaners and whites generally, who feel that the commission has been a politically biased attempt to put all whites in the dock. This feeling was reinforced by last week's appeal by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission chairman, for whites to purge their guilt.

Mr Botha has set a trap for the commission. His lawyers intend to plead that it is not a fair and unbiased body and that it is reasonable for Mr Botha to refuse to attend it. They will subpoena not only Archbishop Tutu and his deputy, Dr Alex Boraine, but other witnesses, putting the commission itself on trial.

It is difficult to see how the commission leaders can refuse such a subpoena when their argument centres on subpoenas being obeyed.

There is great merriment in the Botha camp at the prospect of cross-examining commission figures — particularly since some commission hearings were patently one-sided. Mr Botha's lawyers have indicated that they will demand a referral of the hearing to April 14, which they are likely to secure.

With the commission due to be wound up at the end of July, it should not be difficult for Mr Botha's lawyers to keep proceedings going beyond that date — in which case, even if a subpoena is upheld, there will be no commission for Mr Botha to appear before.

☐ **Poll strategy:** Hernus Kriel, the hardline Western Cape leader and an apartheid-era minister, announced at the weekend he will stand down (Inigo Gilmore writes). The move will enable the beleaguered National Party to woo the Coloured vote in the run-up to next year's elections.

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Despot taunts his Shia enemies with unused £50m 'guest house'

BABYLON

From Sam Kiley
Leader flaunts his power with opulent symbol in the city where dissent flared

THE "guest house", a single building on an area more than six times the size of a football pitch, its walls inlaid with marble four storeys high, with tinted windows the size of hangar doors, sits on a hill at the spiritual centre of President Saddam Hussein's Shia Muslim enemies, making a simple statement: "I am bigger than Babylon."

Completed in the past 18 months, its construction was ordered by Saddam just as United Nations sanctions, imposed to force the Iraqi leader to comply with demands to destroy his weapons of mass destruction, began to throttle the national economy in 1992. It stands overlooking the ancient city of Babylon. Engraved bricks laid into reconstructed walls of the city say Saddam ordered the ancient capital to be rebuilt to reflect the full glory of the days of the Babylonian emperor, and conqueror of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar. Similar bricks credit the original construction to the Old Testament king. Comparison with Nebuchadnezzar, the "King of Kings", have inevitably invited criticism of Saddam's apparently boundless vanity. But the hubris of constructing a "guest house" which dwarfs one of the wonders of the ancient world also delivers a bitter taunt to Shia opposition groups, based in the scruffy modern city of Babylon, which rose against the Iraqi President in 1991 and were ruthlessly crushed.

Visible from ten miles away across a featureless landscape, polluted with puddles of oil, sulphurous water and twisted scrap metal, the "guest house" stands empty. The £50 million folly, in a country where 960,000 children are chronically malnourished and the monthly death rate has soared tenfold over seven years, tells the Shias of Babylon just where they stand in Saddam's list of priorities.

Western military planners and their political masters appear to be pinning their hopes on a Shia uprising and military coup to topple Saddam in the wake of US and British bombing raids.

Signs that Babylon (and nearby Kerbela, the site of powerful Shia shrines) have been hotbeds of dissent are evident at roundabouts and government buildings. Soldiers stand guard with their heavy machineguns trained on civilians. The bullet holes in the concrete walls are a permanent reminder that the Shias may again rise against Saddam, a Sunni ruler.

Life for most Iraqis is extremely tough. But in Babylon the street scenes are reminiscent of an African refugee camp. Bedouin women who used to peddle silver and handmade carpets now trade in UN-donated tins of baby milk, flour and meagre puddles of margarine.

"Saddam has done nothing for us. We are all starving and he has been building palaces," said one woman. Others said graffiti had appeared in Kerbela calling Saddam a coward. The 1991 Shia uprising failed, after spreading through Babylon and Kerbela and threatening Baghdad, when the United States gave Saddam permission to fly "humanitarian" helicopter flights, which he exploited to deploy gunships against the rebels. Since then there have been at least two other Western-sponsored failed plots against the Iraqi leader.

Given Saddam's desire to rub the Shias' noses in their own poverty, with symbols like the "guest house", and two recent assassinations of members of his Baath party in Babylon, there are some signs that the Shias may rise again. But Western and Arab analysts have cautioned against over-enthusiasm for a Shia revolution. "The Shias are close to the regime in Iran and could spark a scramble for land in Iraq by its neighbours. The Kurds could rise in the north and split into Kurdistan, and the whole place cold blow apart," said one senior diplomat in Baghdad. "We seem to be getting closer to a military strike but no closer to understanding its consequences — other than that there will be internal violence and a great potential for chaos."

PETER NICHOLLS

Deception likely to survive bombs and diplomacy

SADDAM'S STRATEGY

By Michael Evans
Even if the Iraqi dictator has backed down, there are fears about his intentions

PEACE or war, there is one nagging fear in the minds of the Americans and the British: however the crisis with President Saddam Hussein is resolved, the Iraqis will have one powerful card in their favour, the power of deception.

Saddam has proved that despite the American-led coalition air campaign in 1991 and the intrusive checks by United Nations arms inspectors, he has succeeded in concealing from the prying eyes of United States spy satellites an arsenal, albeit small, of the most terrible weapons known to man.

If the hopes of a diplomatic solution prove unfounded, there can be no guarantee that a new round of bombings would eradicate the most dangerous threat to Middle East security — Saddam and his anthrax and nerve gas weapons. If military action still proves necessary and the bombs partly succeed, then what?

Will the Iraqi dictator abandon his great ambition to become the new Saladin of the Middle East, after the 12th-century potentate, and surrender what remains of his biological and chemical warfare weapons? Like an injured beast, he is likely to become even more vengeful and dangerous, and even more protective of his surviving poison arsenal. Bombing Iraq this time was always going to be a high-risk policy, which is why Washington and London were prepared to extend the diplomatic efforts in the hope that Baghdad would agree to a new inspection regime, more to Saddam's liking.

However, even if Saddam has backed down, there must be doubts about his intentions in the future. He has deceived the UN too often. If he escapes Gulf War II, he will still try to conceal his weapons of mass destruction while at the same time appearing to be open to UN inspections.

Britain has stated that the objective of any bombing campaign would be to reduce significantly Saddam's military capabilities, and in particular his weapons of mass destruction. In five to ten years the same objectives may be required to deal with Iran's burgeoning nuclear weapons programme. Then it will be Libya's turn.

So it would be better, Washington and London would argue, to deal decisively now with Iraq, not just to undermine Saddam's capability to do evil, but also as a warning to other maverick states with ambitions to possess weapons of mass destruction. Tehran and Tripoli must be watching events closely.

If Saddam signs up to unfettered arms inspections, America and Britain will still have to maintain a large military presence in the Gulf region as an incentive for him to abide by the agreement, which could intensify Arab opposition.

Yet the key element of any American strategy after the present crisis is over must be based on stronger international consensus.

While America has to compete with Russian mischief-making, French egotism, UN ambivalence and Arab apathy, and arms treaties such as the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, that are inadequately enforced, the potential for Saddam-like crises in the Middle East and elsewhere will grow each year.

The confrontation with Iraq has come to a head, but neither the military option nor the diplomatic solution will resolve the Saddam problem. While he remains in power, he will attempt to emerge from the crisis with some of his secret weapons buried in the desert. He is already developing, legitimately under UN rules, a new short-range 150km (93 miles) ballistic missile called al-Samoud, whose range could be extended unless there is continuous monitoring of the programme.

Without pinpoint bombing and/or constant checking by UN inspectors, Iraq could produce chemical and biological weapons in weeks, a long-range missile in a year and a nuclear weapon in five years.

These facts alone make the military option seem justifiable. One does not need a briefing from the CIA to realise Saddam's potential to cause destruction in the world's most volatile region. Yet the most important aim of military action was to force Saddam to comply with the Security Council resolutions and to allow unobstructed inspections of all suspected weapons sites.

With inspectors on the ground in large numbers over a long period, keeping watch over Saddam and his Republican Guards, there is a chance that he can be prevented from realising his dream of possessing an operational force of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Bombing of key installations could set him back five to eight years but if the UN inspection regime is not reinstated, Saddam will continue to remain a potentially serious threat to the region and to global security.

Bronwen Maddox, page 20

American troops of the First Air Defence Artillery stand vigil beside a Patriot missile battery in northern Kuwait yesterday

British Tornados keep up the pressure

KUWAIT

BY MICHAEL EVANS

RAF Tornado pilots in Kuwait continued to train for airstrikes yesterday as the talks in Baghdad approached their climax.

The commanding officer of 14 Squadron, which has eight Tornado GRIs on standby for attacks, said he was confident that if his pilots had to launch strikes against Iraq, they would face an easier task than their comrades in Operation Desert Storm seven years ago.

The 44-year-old wing commander, identified only as "Pete" for security reasons, served in the 1991 Gulf War and believes that lessons learnt from the earlier conflict, as well as technological advances in the last few years, made any new airstrikes less dangerous.

The wing commander, a father of two from Dunstable in Bedfordshire, was in 31 Squadron in the 1991 war, running the operations tent and briefing crews on their missions. He said his experience and that of other Gulf veterans was helping 14 Squadron prepare for battle. "The most important thing for me is that I have seen a squadron in Desert Storm and I know how the guys are likely to react," he said.

"I know the pressures they will be under on the day, should it become necessary. That's very important."

Describing the emotions men would feel when setting off on airstrikes, he said: "I think obviously there's an apprehension about what you are about to go and do. Fear is the wrong word but you are going into an unknown area. You wonder about yourself and how you are going to react in a hostile situation."

Asked how his men were reacting to their posting to a potential war zone, the wing commander said: "Morale is very upbeat. Our biggest problem will be being here for a very long time. You can only maintain the level of concentration for short periods."

However, he said: "We are just as keen that the UN Secretary-General succeeds as anybody else in the world. We are certainly not sitting here dying to get across the border and have a go at the Iraqis."

☐ **Kuwait City:** Hundreds of foreign women and children are booking flights out of Kuwait after some embassies and US firms offered dependants free passage in case of Iraqi attacks, aviation industry officials said yesterday.

Western diplomats said that some 60 Americans had left Kuwait at Washington's expense. "The Americans are behaving as if there are no talks in Baghdad and as if a strike is certainly coming," said one Arab resident of the last-ditch mission to Iraq by the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. *(Reuters)*

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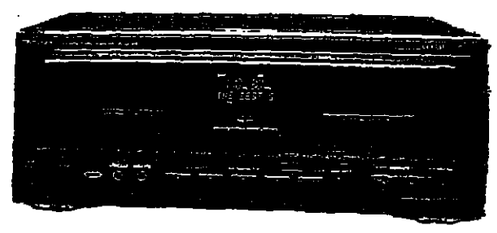

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Pro-Iraqi riots in southern city quelled by King

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

JORDAN

AMID a growing wave of anti-American feeling across the Arab world, Jordanian troops yesterday sealed off the southern city of Maan, imposing a curfew after two days of pro-Iraqi demonstrations.

Armoured cars were positioned around Maan, and soldiers combed the city to confiscate weapons held by its inhabitants, many of whom are tribesmen.

All traffic was turned back and telephone communications between Maan and the rest of Jordan were cut.

Yesterday witnesses said that an eerie silence prevailed in the city after Jordanians had fought with security forces on Saturday in battles which left scores injured. Residents said that the riots followed the killing of a young man when police clashed with pro-Iraqi marchers after weekly prayers at the main mosque. Officials said that the youth had been killed by troublemakers trying to stir up unrest.

"People's nerves are tense and there is still a state of anger over the death of the youth," one resident said. At the funeral, scores of youths chanted slogans in support of President Saddam Hussein.

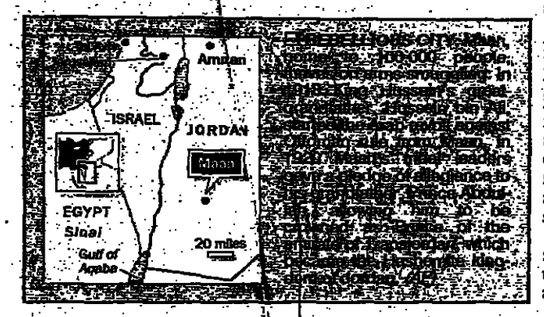
Earlier Abdul Salam al-Majali, the Prime Minister, gave a warning that the Government might declare a state of emergency if the unrest persisted. The crisis in the kingdom, more than 60 per cent of whose population is of Palestinian origin, reflected the uncomfortable position of the ailing King Hussein, who earlier banned all pro-Iraqi demonstrations, infuriating a large section of the public. The King travelled to Maan, 150 miles south of Amman. The southern city had traditionally been regarded as a bedrock of support for the Hashemite monarchy. Later the King, who has been struggling to avoid a repetition of the pro-Iraqi fervour which gripped Jordan in the run-up to the 1991 Gulf War, gave a warning that the Government would not be lenient, and blamed the unrest on groups bent on destabilising the pro-Western country.

"We in Jordan, thank God, are a democracy . . what do people want more than this? Do they want us to deal with them as our [Arab] neighbours who have destroyed cities on top of the heads of its inhabitants or used chemical or non-chemical weapons?" the monarch asked. His unusually harsh remarks were aimed at Syria, which used force to put down an Islamic fundamentalist uprising in the city of Hama, in which 20,000 Syrians were killed, and Iraq, which had no qualms about using chemical weapons against Kurdish dissidents.

The demonstrators called for the resignation of Nazeer Rasheed, the Interior Minister, and the release of a leading government opponent, Leith Shubeilat. He was arrested at his home after delivering a sermon at the main mosque in Maan which attacked the Government's stance in the Iraqi crisis.

Pro-Iraqi demonstrations, some of them violent, continued throughout the West Bank at the weekend.

Palestinians in the town of Nablus burn the Western allies' flags at a pro-Iraqi demonstration on the university campus yesterday



Gas-mask centres are kept open round the clock

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S much-criticised Home Front Command went on a special footing yesterday, opening 61 gas-mask distribution centres 24 hours a day in an attempt to reduce the huge queues and scuffles that have increased a mood of national panic.

Among the round-the-clock centres was one newly opened at the large Tel Aviv basketball stadium that is normally the home of the national champions, Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Elsewhere in the city, expected to be the main target of any Iraqi chemical or biological missile attack, there was anger over a centre for selling masks to foreigners in the central bus station. Officials said that masks were available only at a cost of 200 shekels (about £34) each to foreign passport-holders aged between 14 and 50. One US tourist, 60, was not pleased. "What do you mean, 'maybe next month — and if something happens, maybe after Tuesday'?" she snapped when told she was too old for a mask, which comes equipped with an air pump for people over 50. "I do not know what to do now."

Yosef Lapid, a leading journalist, mounted a furious attack in the Tel Aviv paper *Maariv* against the tens of thousands of Israelis who have made plans to flee the country, or at least the central Tel Aviv area, if American and British airstrikes are made on Iraq.

"Who are we to judge the anxieties of others? But a free society has the right to express its reservations or disgust at the flight of cowardly and hysterical citizens from Tel Aviv to Eilat or from Israel to New York," he wrote. ". . . to those trying to get away from anthrax and gases, we say: 'When you come back, we will receive you with the right degree of contempt'."

Mockery of palaces in UN's psychological warfare played into dictator's hands

COMMENTARY

THE crisis over the inspection of President Saddam Hussein's palaces has its roots in the hastily reached agreement of 1991. Between then and now Saddam cunningly distracted the world from his true reason for the construction of the palaces.

After the 1991 ceasefire, Iraq agreed to UN Security Council Resolution 687, which stipulates the destruction of the country's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. Almost seven years later, sanctions are still in place and the mission of Unscom, the United Nations Special Commission responsible for destroying Iraq's weapons, is not completed.

It was an excellent opportunity, from the American point of view, to keep sanctions in place, waiting for a palace coup in Baghdad — Madeleine Albright, the incoming Secretary of State, announced as much in a speech at Georgetown University in Washington last year. But inspections have turned out to be a double-edged sword because of a loophole in the 1991 agreement.

Unscom can operate only with Saddam's co-operation. As consequences of both the flawed clause and the US sanctions tactics, Saddam managed to conceal his strategic plans by building palaces: hiding things he wants, from laboratories producing anthrax to documents and computer files.

The UN Sanctions Committee teased Saddam, as part of psychological warfare, by blocking the imports of material needed for his palaces. Saddam even encouraged Western experts' interpretation that it was a grandiose design on the part of an Arab dictator.

In October 1994, Ms Albright, then American Ambassador to the UN, showed the Security Council satellite photographs of buildings she said were new palaces which Saddam had built since the war. But there were no witnesses on the ground or pictures of palaces from inside Iraq.

Then, in January 1995, I met Hussein Wael, a builder who bribed his way out of Iraq. His testimony confirmed the claim that Saddam spent £1.22 billion building new palaces and renovating old ones, while his people were starving. "They are like the palaces in stories of Sinbad and the *Arabian Nights*," he said.

His last job was in the palace of Maqar-al-Tharthar, northwest of Baghdad. "It is at least four or five times bigger than the White House," said Mr Wael. He said workers specialising in alabaster and marble are not permitted to leave because of the grand project that included 30 new palaces beside the 19 which existed before the Gulf War. To obtain marble and alabaster, he said, the Iraqis have taken to plundering Babylonian ruins and tombs.

Mr Wael also helped to renovate the Baghdad Republican Palace, which has tripled in size, the Camp Taj retreat north of Baghdad, and the old palace of Baiji in Tikrit, as well as one on an island in Lake Abu Gharib, west of the capital.

The most impressive presidential residence, he said, is Qasr-Shatt al-Arab, a complex of buildings and four artificial lakes built along the waterway, which separates Iraq from Iran. "One of the French engineers working there told us it was bigger than the palace at Versailles," he said.

❑ Adel Darwish is the author of *Unholy Babylon: The Secret History of Saddam's War.*

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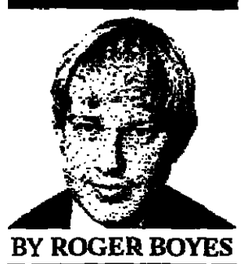
Jitters over euro add to angst as politicians plot poll positions

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Germans have rarely been so nervous about the future. They do not know what is going to happen to their mark, savings, pensions or Chancellor of the past 15 years.

Unemployment has become so acute that Germans are losing faith not only in the political class but also in schools and universities, which are merely feeding the dole queues. The prospect of war, even in distant Iraq, adds to the edginess. Modern Germans fear escalation, a bust-up in one part of the world sparking trouble closer to home. In seven days the contours of German politics should be firmer, but the Germans will be as anxious as ever. By next weekend the 1997 economic performance of all the candidates for euro entry should be known.

Germany has hit the bull's eye: that much is clear from the leaks of the past few days. All the signs are that the euro will start on time with a broad membership. Will Germans accept the logic of figures? Will they put up with Italy's huge overshoot of the total public debt target? Will they start to turn on their politicians?

My experience travelling around Germany is that the euro is added to the chief complaints of the region. Those in Bonn will moan about the expensive shifting of the capital to Berlin and then chip in: "And what is the euro going to cost us?" Those in Saxony will attack federal unemployment policies (or lack of them) and, as an afterthought, ask: "How many jobs will the euro steal from the east?"

So far the euro is an aggravating issue rather than the focus of a crusade. That may change as soon as the euro appears inevitable. Then, just conceivably, it could become a catalyst for change outside the political party system. The equation does not balance at present: two thirds of Germans are strongly against scrapping the mark, yet every mainstream political party is for it: unemployment has touched one in four east Germans, yet no party is willing to spell out the job-creating advantages of the euro. This imbalance could lead to street unrest or surprising election results.

The second change over the coming days will be Hanover. Gerhard Schröder, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, is seeking re-election — or rather, he is trying to be so successfully re-elected that he will emerge as the natural, unstoppable Social Democrat (SPD) candidate to challenge Helmut Kohl as Chancellor. Plainly, there is some contradiction in these aims. Are Lower Saxons voting for a regional premier or a future leader of Germany? Do they punish him for his economic record (11.9 per cent unemployment) or punish Herr Kohl? It is a confusing choice.

According to the Byzantine rites of the Social Democrats, if Herr Schröder wins convincingly in Lower Saxony he will be in pole position for the Chancellery. If he falters then Oskar Lafontaine, the party chairman, will lead the SPD into battle.

Herr Schröder has very high popularity ratings in the country but is regarded as a backslider by party activists. Herr Lafontaine has already lost one election against Herr Kohl and stands little chance of winning in September. The party, however, is full square behind him.

My bet is that Herr Schröder and Herr Lafontaine have struck a secret deal. Even if Herr Schröder wins only narrowly on March 1, Oskar will hail Gerhard and propose him as the candidate for Chancellor — but make clear that Herr Schröder is beholden to the party and will be in permanent harness. Herr Schröder's function will be to win the election for the SPD. Then Herr Lafontaine will become the secret ruler of Germany, allowing Herr Schröder to strike presidential poses. Oskar will be kingmaker and king-breaker. Whether it works out that way — for the politicians and for the euro — will become obvious this time next week.

CIA takes blame for Cuba raid debacle

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE CIA has finally released one of the Cold War's most secret documents — a scathing indictment showing how the Bay of Pigs fiasco was the agency's fault.

The report squarely puts the blame for the failure of the 1961 invasion of Cuba to overthrow Fidel Castro on the CIA's arrogance, ignorance and incompetence. It makes clear that these shortcomings were the "fundamental cause of the disaster", not President Kennedy's failure to follow through with American air raids to back the invaders.

The CIA had failed to advise the President at an appropriate time that "success had become dubious" and to recommend that the operation should therefore be cancelled.

The report was an internal investigation conducted by Lyman Kirkpatrick, the agency's inspector-general, but it so enraged CIA officials that all but one of 20 copies were destroyed. The sole remaining copy has lain hidden for 36 years in the office safe of the CIA director. It has only been issued now under a Freedom of Information Act request from a private, non-profit group, the National Security Archive, that publishes formerly secret government documents.

The lessons of the debacle have relevance to the current showdown with the Iraqi regime. They illustrate the hazards of trying to organise offshore opposition to a government, a method that has often been suggested for toppling President Saddam Hussein.

The document warns those who would use the CIA to overthrow enemies that such efforts belong to the Pentagon. John Deutch, a former director of the CIA, writing in *The New York Times* yesterday, said the agency has supported several dissident groups in Iraq, including most recently opposition within the country's military, but without success.

The problem is that policy-makers adopt covert action to avoid harder choices, such as direct military action or the above-board diplomatic work needed to replace a foreign leader, Mr Deutch said.

There was almost nothing covert about the Bay of Pigs by the time the invasion was launched. Its cover had been blown by American press reports freely linking the CIA to the recruiting and training of anti-Castro paramilitary forces in Florida. As the inspector-general put it, plausible denial had become a pathetic illusion.

Kennedy had been in office only three months and inherited the plan from Eisenhower, who had grown increasingly nervous over the Castro regime falling under Soviet influence. Yet Kennedy accepted full responsibility for the catastrophe.

In three days of fighting, Señor Castro's forces rebuffed the assault on a swampy, mosquito-ridden inlet on the southern coast of Cuba. About 200 rebels were killed and 1,197 captured.

Kennedy, left, with predecessor Eisenhower after the Bay of Pigs blunder in 1961

'Anthrax' pair had harmless vaccine

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

LABORATORY tests on the material seized as potentially lethal anthrax last week from two men near Las Vegas have shown that the substance was no more than an innocuous vaccine against the disease.

Government scientists are now convinced that the material found in the possession of Larry Wayne Harris, a white extremist, and William Leavitt, an apparently apolitical biologist, could not spread disease to humans or animals. It lacked the DNA that would cause it to form spores, and was therefore neither toxic nor "weapons grade".

The two men had been arrested and charged with possessing anthrax "for use as a weapon". Although the charges against them have not been dropped, the FBI has now released Mr Leavitt. Mr Harris, however, is still in custody, pending a court hearing in Las Vegas today. His possession of the vaccine appear to have violated a probation order imposed after his conviction for obtaining freeze-dried bubonic plague bacterium by fraud.

Although embarrassed by the turnaround in the story, Bobby Siller, head of the Las Vegas FBI, said: "Because of the potential serious threat to the community, our actions had to be quick and decisive. We had to act the way we did."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Court ruling halts opera house work

Rome: The rebuilding of La Fenice, Venice's 18th-century opera house destroyed by fire in 1996, was suspended at the weekend after a high court ruling that the contract had been awarded unfairly (Richard Owen writes). It was won, in an international competition, by Impregilo — part of the Fiat empire — and was based on designs by the architect Gae Aulenti. But lawyers for Holzmann-Romagnoli, a German-Italian consortium led by a rival architect, Aldo Rossi, argued successfully that the Impregilo tender was lower than its own because it had failed to take account of key parts of the rebuilding programme.

Pope creates 22 cardinals

Rome: The Pope put the finishing touches at the weekend to the College of Cardinals which will almost certainly elect his successor, creating 22 new "red hats" in a colourful open-air ceremony in St Peter's Square attended by 10,000 people (Richard Owen writes). The pontiff, 77, resplendent in white, green and gold vestments and in good form, placed crimson biretttas on the heads of the new cardinals. Later the cardinals donned white mitres to receive their rings of office.

Gunmen free UN hostage

Zugdidi, Georgia: Nationalist gunmen linked to an assassination attempt this month against President Shevardnadze released one of four UN observers held captive in western Georgia since Thursday. Journalists saw Captain Ronald Garcia, 40, a Uruguayan, leave the village of Jikhashkari where a Czech, a Swede and another Uruguayan are still held. *(AFP)*

'Monster of Florence' dies

Florence: A farmhand branded the "monster of Florence" after being accused of Italy's worst serial killing spree was found dead, apparently after a heart attack, in his house. Pietro Pacciani, 73, was convicted in 1994 of the murder of seven couples and jailed for life, but an appeals court acquitted him and the supreme court ordered a new trial. *(AP)*

Turkey scraps Islamist party

Ankara: Turkey's Islam-based Welfare Party has ceased to exist after losing a bitter fight with the secular establishment over the role of the religion in public life. A constitutional court ruling last month was given legal force after its publication yesterday. The ruling imposes heavy restrictions on Necmettin Erbakan, 71, Welfare's leader and former Prime Minister. *(Reuters)*

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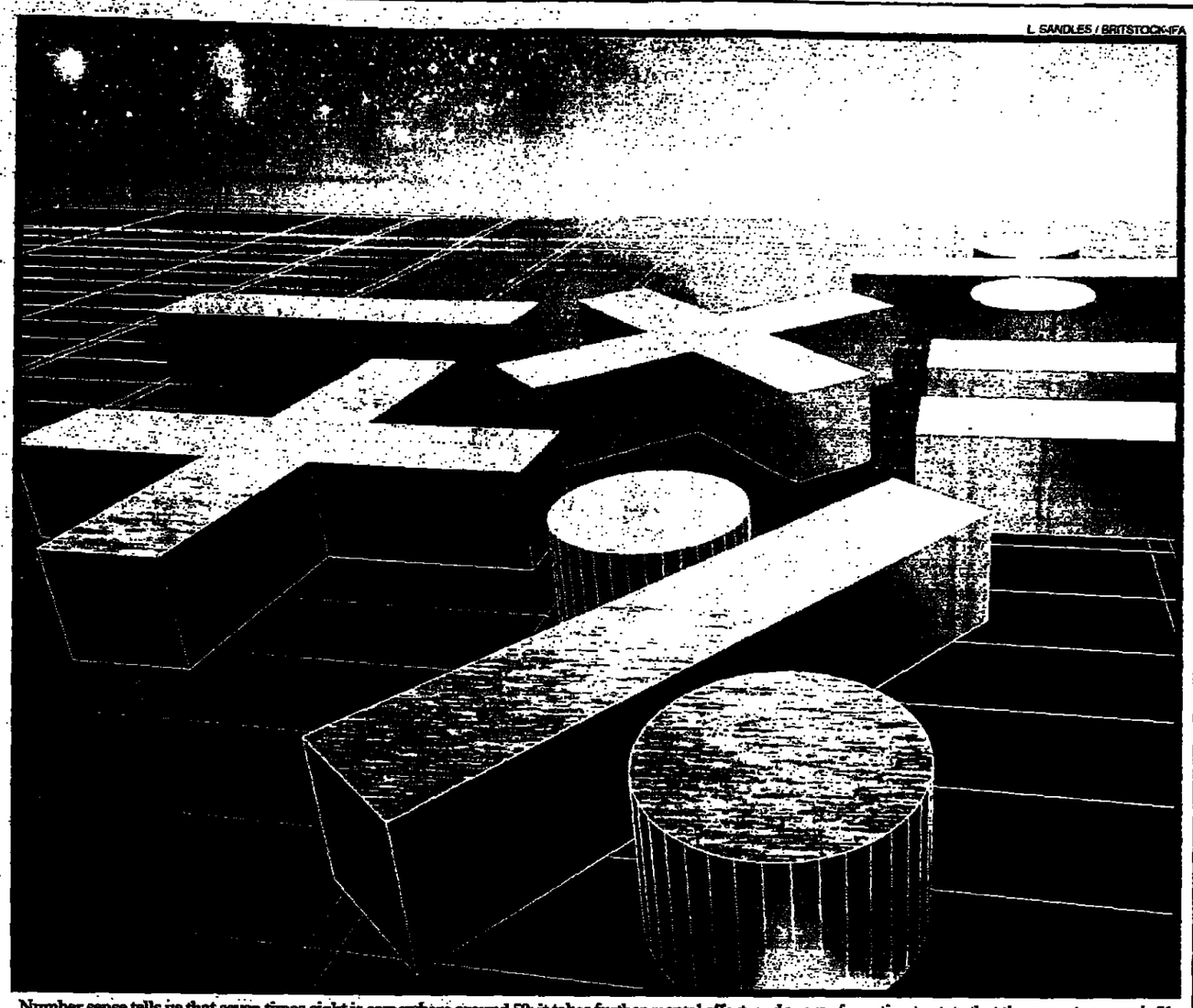
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Number sense tells us that seven times eight is somewhere around 50; it takes further mental effort, and years of practice, to state that the correct answer is 56

Born to multiply

We all have the potential to be mathematical geniuses, a new book reveals. By Anjana Ahuja

A man called Mr N thinks that a year contains about 350 days, that an hour comprises 50 minutes and that a dozen eggs really amount to "six or ten". He cannot tell the difference between odd and even numbers, and, although he is reasonably confident that two plus two equals three, he rightly scoffs at the suggestion that five plus seven equals 19.

Because of a bad fall, Mr N lost much of the left hemisphere of his brain. As a result, he speaks slowly and with difficulty (he often cannot find the right words) and has so much trouble moving around that he is dependent on his parents. However, his strange attempts at arithmetic show that he also suffers from acalculia, a neurological condition that disrupts a person's "number sense".

As his case sadly makes clear, acalculia does not necessarily leave a person in the mathematical wilderness. Instead, it appears to unmask the "accumulator", a region of the brain in each hemisphere which acts like a primitive, approximate calculator. In Mr N's case, his former ability to juggle numbers with precision has been stripped away, condemning him to a life of approximation.

According to *The Number Sense*, a remarkably accessible book by Stanislas Dehaene — a mathematician-turned-cognitive scientist who studied Mr N — we are all born with such a number sense, which is located in the inferior parietal varies, the bit of brain just above and behind the ear on each side. It gives us an innate ability to manipulate numbers. It is the accumulator that tells us that seven times eight is somewhere around 50; it takes further mental effort, and years of practice, to state that the correct answer is 56.

Dr Dehaene, from the National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Paris, argues that an ability to play with numbers is "engraved in the very architecture of our brains" and stretches farther back in our ancestry than language. "Some knowledge of quantities must have been absolutely vital for human survival," says Dr Dehaene. "We needed to know numbers so that we could assess how many predators we had to avoid. We used it to navigate our environment by counting how many trees we passed."

His book cites a wealth of intriguing evidence that, instead of acquiring arithmetical ability during schooling, babies have an elementary grasp of numbers almost from birth. Animal experiments also show that rats, pigeons and chimpanzees display some degree of numeracy.

"The fact you can see if in pigeons suggests number sense originated a long way back in evolution," he says.

One of the most ingenious studies in this field, conducted by Dr Karen Wynn at the University of Arizona, proved babies as young as five months old can deduce that one plus one equals two. The infants were put in front of a puppet theatre and a Mickey Mouse puppet was placed on the stage. A screen came up to mask the puppet. While the infants watched, a second Mickey Mouse was deposited behind the screen, the clear implication being that the screen would be dropped to reveal two puppets.

The screen was pulled back to reveal either two puppets or one (courtesy of a trap door). If only one Mickey Mouse was on stage, the children stared at the theatre for longer, as if trying to make sense of this unexpected revelation. When the experiment was repeated to represent different sums (for example, having two puppets to begin with, and then taking one away), the nonsensical scenario was the subject of far longer scrutiny by the infants. The conclusion? Children are born with a sense of addition and subtraction.

Dr Dehaene is certain that, even though mathematics is an inborn skill, arithmetical genius is not biological. With enough practice, he claims, anybody can become a whiz at sums. "My book absolutely does not state that people are born with different levels of mathematical ability," Dr Dehaene insists. "I'm arguing that a number sense appears to be a construction of the human brain and is a genetic endowment across the entire human race.

"The bulk of evidence from experiments with infants shows all babies have a number sense; there isn't even a difference between boys and girls." Dr Dehaene hopes his book will encourage a rethink of the way mathematics is taught in schools.

So why are some people so obviously more gifted with numbers than others? Dr Dehaene puts it down to passion, boredom or mental deficiency. He points out that with effort, even the most average students can become human calculators. In one example, 300 hours of training quadrupled speed, allowing students mentally to compute 59,541 times 86 in less than 30 seconds.

The most startling mathematical abilities are often shown by *idiots savants*, who generally have a low IQ and few social skills. Many have a gift for calendrology — an ability to compute, for any given date, such information as what day of the week it fell on and whether it was a leap year. Their narrow talent suggests it is learnt, not genetic, since, says Dr Dehaene, "neither genes nor hormones can instil innate knowledge about the month of December". Their peculiar talents are simply the result of a pathological ability to concentrate on calendars at the expense of almost everything else, including human beings.

> Babies are able to deduce that one plus one equals two

Brain imaging and the study of brain-damaged patients is helping Dr Dehaene, and other scientists, to work out exactly what happens when our grey matter embarks on an arithmetical adventure. For example, when people subtract, they appear to use both hemispheres. Multiplication involves just the left hemisphere. "Multiplication usually involves memorised tables, so one would expect memory and language, located on the left, to be active," says Dr Dehaene. "On the other hand, we don't have subtraction tables. So we need mentally to manipulate the actual numbers."

Indeed, brain-damaged patients whose language and memory are affected are often unable to perform multiplication, even though other mathematical abilities remain unscathed.

Dr Dehaene's thesis that we are born with a feel for numbers mirrors the conclusion of Steven Pinker, who argued in *The Language Instinct* that we are also born with the capacity for language. "I was deeply inspired by Pinker," Dr Dehaene admits. "I agree with his idea that the brain is composed of little modules, each of which carries out a task such as language or mathematics. And I think it is fantastic that we are finally decoding how it all works."

● Times *readers can buy* The Number Sense: How the Mind Creates Mathematics, *by Stanislas Dehaene, for just £17.99 (compared with the publisher's RRP of £20) by calling* The Times *bookshop, 0990 134 459. It will be published on March 26 by Penguin.*

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Tongue-twisters

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

WHEN William Labov, a dialect specialist at the University of Pennsylvania, visited London recently he recorded five young British blacks in Battersea Park. The next day he played the tapes to several white people, asking them if they could tell from the accents whether the speakers he had taped were black or white. They could not — a result that would be unimaginable in the United States.

There, he says, nobody would have had the slightest difficulty because American blacks speak what is, in effect, a different form of English. Not only are the sounds different, but also the grammar. Scholars call the language Ebonics (from "ebony" and "phonics") or, more formally, African-American Vernacular English (AAVE). Last week Professor Labov organised a discussion of Ebonics and other dialects at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia.

His studies have shown that despite the unifying force of radio and television, spoken English in the US is drifting apart. This applies within the white community as well as across the races. Regional dialects are not as strong in the US as they are in Britain, but they are diverging: so much so that white people from Chicago, Birmingham (Alabama) and Philadelphia find it increasingly hard to understand one another.

White vowel sounds have shifted significantly since the last century, he said. For example, the word "sawed" has come to sound like "sod", while "sod" is now pronounced "sad". In Philadelphia, the sound of "ou" in "about" is rolled around the tongue to form a double-vowelled diphthong sound. Not only does this differ from white speech in other northern US cities but, says Professor Labov, "you could search for years in Philadelphia without finding a black person who has picked this up".

Dr John Rickford, of Stanford University, another participant, agrees that there was no evidence of convergence between the black and white vernaculars. "Ebonics remains different from white vernacular varieties and is even diversifying from them in some respects, even though whites and blacks are supposedly in contact with one another," he said. Dr Rickford, who himself speaks with a rich Guyanese accent, says that years ago he asked 25 whites and 25 blacks what was meant by the Ebonic sentence "She *bin* married", with strong emphasis on "bin".

What this actually means is that she has been married for a long time and still is. Of the black Americans, 23 understood the sentence correctly, but only eight of the whites did so. "She bin married" without the emphasis on "bin" would mean that she had been married but no longer was — a usage most whites can understand.

So why do young British blacks and whites still speak the same language? Professor Labov says: "First-generation immigrants don't follow the speech patterns of their parents, and there is no segregation in housing in Britain as there is in the US."

Plant victims turn over a tougher leaf

PLANTS that are attacked by leaf-eating insects might be expected to suffer. But researchers at the University of California at Davis have shown that they in fact enjoy some benefits. First, the attacks trigger a kind of immune response that arms the plant to fight off future predation, so that wild radish plants assailed by cabbage worms suffer much less damage from earwigs, aphids or flea beetles than intact control plants.

Curiously, the plants that are attacked also go on to produce more seeds than the controls, Dr Anurag Agrawal and colleagues report in *Science*.

The radishes nibbled by caterpillars yielded 60 per cent more seed. Plants in which leaves had simply been clipped off, rather than eaten, showed no such bonus.

Dr Agrawal believes there is something in caterpillar saliva that "jump-starts" the plants.

The conclusion is that both plants and predators benefit from the relationship. Gardeners whose brassicas are shredded by the cabbage white may take a different view.

REM theory is just a dream out of time

IT IS common knowledge that rapid eye movement (REM) sleep — when the eyes twitch beneath the eyelids while a person sleeps — is linked to dreaming. During REM sleep, dreamers are supposed to be updating their brains with the experiences of the day. It is a nice theory, but now Professor David Maurice, of Columbia University in New York, has come along with a different one. He believes the movement is designed to stir up the fluid inside the eye. This fluid needs to circulate to carry oxygen from blood vessels in the iris to the cornea, which has relatively few of them.

Professor Maurice has shown that when the eye is closed and motionless, the fluid hardly moves. When it is open, motion or convection currents stimulated by the cooler air around the eyeball keep the fluid stirred.

This is why REM sleep is so common in babies in the womb who have no experiences to update, he says, and why periods of REM sleep become longer in adults as the night proceeds. Others can dream, he writes in *Experimental Eye, Research*, "my interests are in the plumbing".

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The missing link in the chains

Two designers with an eye for quality are bringing their clothes to the high street. Style Editor **Grace Bradberry** reports

The London fashion shows are an inspiration and a source of entertainment — but they won't provide many wardrobe solutions for those with an average budget. Whatever their fantasies, most women end up in the high street.

Thankfully, our high street stores are the best in Europe, selling everything from Prada knock-offs to sensible navy-blue suits. Nevertheless, there are women who fall through the gaps. Typically, they care about fashion but do not want to look overtly trendy. Nor do they want to fill their wardrobes with drab basics. They want interesting pieces, in quality fabrics, that will work season after season. They are probably in their late twenties or thirties. Some are in their forties. So where can they go?

At the moment, they probably go for the less trend-orientated pieces in Whistles, and the slightly older designs in Jigsaw. They might also shop at Agnès B. Occasionally they splurge at Nicole Farhi.

A new name about to hit the high street is aimed at this type of woman. The first Press & Bastyan store opened in Glasgow earlier this month and the next will open on London's South Molton Street on February 28. Two more London stores are due to open next month.

Yet while the name may be new to the high-street shopper, it is already familiar to fashion insiders. Madeleine Press, 26, and Tonia Bastyan, 30, met at Ravensbourne College and launched their own label at the end of 1993, gradually acquiring a loyal following for their exquisite devoré prints and embroidered silk dresses. But with prices of around £500 for a dress, they appealed to a limited market.

Then along came Kevin Stanford, the partner (business and personal) of Karen Millen. Not content with establishing one successful chain from scratch, Stanford looked around last year and saw a gap in the market for another chain, a gap that he felt Press & Bastyan could fill.

"I'd known Kevin since I was 19, when I managed the store in Tunbridge Wells," says Bastyan. "It was only their second store, and Kevin and Karen would be around, and people would be sewing in the back. We kept in touch, but when Kevin invited me to a meeting I had no idea what he would say."

It was a highly original business concept. While Nicole Farhi began with a high-street chain, French Connection, before developing her own upscale label, the reverse has never happened.

Stanford is confident that Press & Bastyan can duplicate the success of Karen Millen by using the same principles, but in another market. "At Karen Millen, we've brought top-end designer fabrics to the high street. We own our shops so the manufacturing chain is that much shorter."

"A £600 glitter-print dress will now cost £195 — what the wholesale price used to be," says Bastyan.

The pair have strong heads for business. They started out with no money, but managed to do an *Elle* readers' offer for 300 bias-cut skirts, despite being unknowns. The profits enabled them to produce their first collection. From the start, they created simple cuts in fabulous textiles. Once they had to dye 200 metres of devoré fabric themselves. "Ravensbourne let us use its dying labs," says Press. They went to Lyons for their silks, where they commissioned placement prints, the designs filling the shape of, say, the back of a shirt.

They are still using the same techniques, but now have the manufacturing facilities of Karen Millen Ltd at their disposal. This is where the similarity between the two labels will end, however. Karen Millen clothes are squarely aimed at younger women and the cut is sexy, sometimes clingy. Press & Bastyan clothes will drape and skim, but will never cling.

And while Karen Millen changes the cut and colours of her clothes each season, Press & Bastyan will be more timeless. The same trouser cuts will appear for several seasons, though the fabrics may change. Fashionable colours will be toned down to suit slightly older complexions. All pinks must pass the Press test — if they don't flatter her pale skin, they don't make it into the collection.

ABOVE LEFT: Jacket, £180, trousers, £85, bodysuit, top, £49.95. **ABOVE RIGHT:** underlay dress, £110, sequined kitten-heel mules, £185, by Gina. **BELOW LEFT:** sequined glitter chiffon dress, £295. **BELOW RIGHT:** mules, £245. All clothes from Press & Bastyan. National loyalty number: 01692 783 214. PHOTOGRAPHER: Ryan Stanford. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Hair: Raphael Salley at Michaeljohn Management. Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management. Model: Sarah at Elite.

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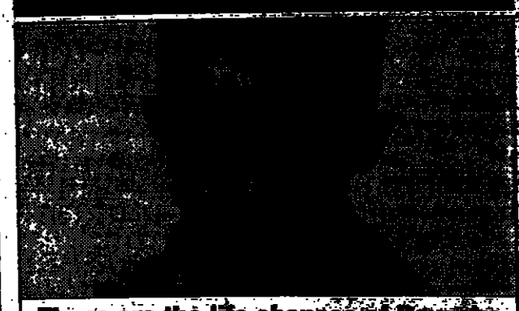
Hollywood golden boy Quentin Tarantino brings his latest to the Berlin Film Festival. Pages 18, 19

Bayushe's life chances...



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'It's unfair that men don't have the problem of career versus children'

When Ute Lemper is not playing a vampish murderer, she is a besotted mother. Interview by **Moira Petty**

Ute Lemper as *Velma*, the scheming murderer, in *Chicago* — "I express my musicality with my body. I feel it right through to my fingertips and down to my toes"

The dressing room is awash with congratulatory red roses but there is a distinctly non-floral note in the air. Ute Lemper takes a deep breath, her long elegant nose quivering. "Can you smell Parmesan cheese? It's actually vomit. My children have been in all afternoon. They were having a competition to see how long they could keep their fingers down their throats before they were sick." She laughs unsqueamishly.

Last week Lemper scooped the Olivier award for Best Actress in a Musical and, in typically self-deprecatory fashion, lamented the effort it had taken to "get my bones into shape" for her role in the West End hit *Chicago*. As Velma, the camp, scheming Twenties murderer who hopes her notoriety will propel her to vaudeville, she pushes her sinuous, india-rubber body into positions that defy belief.

"If you catch me at the right moment, my legs are at an angle of 180 degrees to each other," she remarks.

She is backstage after her second show of the day. The award is surely a professional high for her, a moment to savour or perhaps to dissect. But Lemper, 34, the leading exponent of socially and sexually charged Weimar Republic-era cabaret, the new Marlene Dietrich ("ridiculous," she snorts), the restless spirit who spent her twenties on the move and who appeared naked and pregnant in Robert Altman's film *Pret-à-Porter*, is now less the tortured artist and more — much more — the besotted mother.

The walls are covered with pictures of Max, 4 — "I so like my Max, now he's speaking and cheeky" — and Stella, 18 months. "My little one is so sweet," she coos.

Lemper has sparked controversy in the hard-bitten theatre world by voicing the problems that come from mixing motherhood with the 100 per cent commitment demanded by a tough role. While she was rehearsing for eight hours a day, she wondered if she should have been leaving her children. That is why she insists they join her on matinee days.

On January 1, she recalls: "I thought 'I can't do it. I've still got more than half my run to go'. But now I'm used to it and I find the energy from somewhere.

"It is unfair that men don't have this problem of career versus children. I have a very different life to the rest of the cast. I get up at 7.30am with the children. Very rarely, my husband [the American actor and comedian David Tabatsky] gives me a treat and says 'Go back to sleep'. I don't have a babysitter all day.

"When it's time for the theatre I look at my hair and there's no time to do anything with it. And I can forget about pedicures and treatments. I travel in on the Tube and I nod off over my newspaper. One of these evenings I'll miss my station."

"There's no time to do my hair. And I can forget pedicures"

Ute's eyes soften and her face, a miracle of sharply alternating planes, lights up at the thought of her children. "I thought I would have children at the end of my thirties. But you must push away those thoughts of the right time. I was frightened ot losing my independent life, then I found myself in this great relationship. It's made me a more happy and fulfilled person. My obsession is to be creative. I used to go into the depths. It's neurotic and self-destructive when you have only yourself to think about."

Before she had children Lemper painted, often staying up all night to produce her canvasses of up to two square metres. She used oil as thick as porridge, working in the Expressionist tradition, in which feeling is all. Several are reproduced in her 1995 autobiography, *Uncensored*, featuring hollow-eyed figures taut with pain.

> 'I travel in on the Tube and I nod off over my paper'

"Most of them are in storage now because they frightened Max so much. I haven't painted since he was born. I have no time." She is, she says, "totally unvain", both professionally and in her frantic home life. Her knowing posture in *Chicago*, in which she is clad in little black scraps of nothing, is informed not by a wish to titillate but by the exigencies of the performance.

"I express my musicality with my body. I feel it right through to my fingertips and down to my toes. And now," she announces, "I must remove my wig."

One dresser tugs at the sleek blonde sheath of hair, from which Lemper's own hair explodes. "Leave it wild," she insists. Another dresser tugs at the cork on a bottle of good red wine. Lemper shares it round then gulps thirstily. It is a late-night soporific rather than the start of a night's carousing. "I'm not a night bird," she says, languidly stretching Modigliani limbs.

In *Chicago* Lemper shares the top billing with Ruthie Henshall, who plays the cynically kittenish Roxie. Both were nominated in the same category for an Olivier at theatreland's premier awards ceremony. While Lemper had not appeared in a musical since 1987, when she won a Molière Award for her Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* in Paris, Ruthie is very much a fixture in British musical theatre. The result was a shock.

"I never expected it and it would have been very fair if we had won it together," she begins. What did Ruthie say to her when she returned to the table with her trophy? "She left quickly so I didn't see her. I don't think she was happy.

"I didn't see her until we went on stage together that night. Afterwards we gave each other a hug and had a chat. We don't socialise. She goes out a lot and I like to go home and be silent. But there are no stupid vibrations."

Lemper was born in the German university town of Munster on July 4, 1963, to a banker and his wife, and brought up a Roman Catholic. "They were very moralistic. They said 'Be normal'. That meant, have no identity. They were very protective of me in a way that they weren't of my brother Martin, who is two years older. They didn't like me going out or having boyfriends but I was wild.

"I struggled as an adolescent. I had many fears, trying to find my identity. I left home at 17." She raises her own children differently. "I want them to experience love, esteem and be free spirits and free minds. Sometimes you have to have rules. Max harasses the little one. That's what boys do and he gets a smack on his behind. But I would never smack them across the face. My parents did it to me and it was so humiliating. It made me angry and I wanted to hit them back but I didn't.

"My relationship with my parents has changed since I had the children. They love them and it is something to talk about. There are still many issues we can't touch. You can forget politics and they don't like my cabaret act because it's so provocative."

Lemper rarely speaks German, preferring French or Americanised English, and says: "I can understand the prejudices against Germans. I have them also. Their sense of humour is very limited."

At school she was taught about Hitler as though he were "part of history, a long time ago, like Napoleon. When I first went abroad, I was embarrassed at being German. When a documentary about the Holocaust came on the television my mother would leave the room. I wanted to confront these issues."

From this background springs her taste for the challenging songs of Bertholt Brecht and Kurt Weill. *Chicago*, too, sits well with her political mindset. "It's a satire on the justice system. I think audiences were ready for its political overtones. And at least," she adds, "I don't have to play one of those sweet, stereotyped little things."

She met her husband in Berlin in 1991. "I thought it would be a great little affair. We felt this sparkling, naive joy and started saying 'What if we had a family?' " They married in 1993, five days before Lemper gave birth to Max. "I wanted the kids to have American passports and I wanted a green card," she shrugs. "But the wedding was in the beautiful eighth *arrondissement* of Paris, and we had a party on a roof garden next to the Arc de Triomphe."

Lemper wore a stretch white lace non-maternity gown, which she had hoped only to borrow from a Parisian shop. They refused to take it back as it had stretched out of shape. Her abdomen was "enormous", she shrieks, and Max weighed in at 10lb.

Now she is happy to be part of a couple. "It must be terrible for single mothers who don't have someone to go through it with. Children do strain a relationship, and work takes us away from each other. I used to be a much more jealous person when I first knew David. But I don't think he's fooling around anyway."

What would she do if he were? She narrows her eyes then shrugs. Remembering those high kicks, I wouldn't give any man much of a chance against her. "Maybe men are frightened of me," she admits. "I am very sarcastic about all that male behaviour."

She may not have lost her edge but she is more vulnerable since becoming a mother. "I can't bear to hear of children suffering. I won't go and see *Titanic* because of the children who get swept overboard. When I'm away from my kids I imagine all sorts of things. But I've also found an inner calm with them. Now I see everything in perspective."

● *Ute Lemper is appearing in* Chicago *at the Adelphi Theatre, The Strand, London WC2*

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هكذا من الأصل

World would rush to the brain of Britain

Last Wednesday in this newspaper Ted Hughes dropped a bomb on the Millennium Dome. It was an ideas bomb, a brilliantly imagined bomb that blasted away every other notion I had heard about what to put into that extraordinary new structure at Greenwich. I would go so far as to say it is the only idea remotely as extraordinary as the dome itself.

This comes at almost the worst possible moment for those in charge of the dome, because tomorrow they announce the initial plans for what will be in it. But there could be an even worse moment. Hughes could have planted his idea after the planners were irrevocably enchained. I can guess how difficult it has been to come so far already. It will be even more difficult to have the vision and the nerve to start again. Unfortunately, one cannot legislate for the timing of ideas and Hughes has turned up with an idea of such breathtaking simplicity and complexity, magnificence and accessibility, grandeur and fun that if it is not pursued it could for ever haunt the dome.

If it is taken on board it would make this project exactly the ringing global testament to the values of this country, its confidence, inventiveness and vision that new Labour clearly wants it to be. It is a wonderful notion to turn that mighty structure into a brain. A brain into which we can wander and in which we can probe. Hughes spoke of the athletic component as an example of interactivity which could enrapture and engage children of all ages. The whole massive engineering and design of it could, and would, excite adults — a spectacular mind-set to blow away even the greatest theatrical sets.

And such is the scale that it would inevitably become an important tool for Euro-scientists, students of medicine, psychologists, artists, intellectuals of all disciplines who would see in super magnification the indisputable wonder of the world — the human brain. It would dwarf the Pyramids and make the Hanging Gardens of Babylon hang their heads. It would be the epigraph of the third millennium.

Just imagine how it would be in that section of the brain thought to deal with memory, for example. Not only could we see how that part of the brain is constructed and look at the simulated electrical activity as well as the mass itself, but it could be used for so many purposes. For memory tests, both serious and fun; for memory quizzes, challenges and tricks. There is a kaleidoscope of possibilities for everyone.

It could also, at last and legitimately, bring together scientists, engineers and artists on equal terms. The building of the Millennium Brain would be an engineering feat of a very high order. The design and the look would be crucial. The contents of each section would need the underpinning of science, while the interactivity would need popular artists and showbiz.

Nor need the spiritual dimension and the Christian element be left out. It would be fascinating to investigate the mind's long obsession with the mystery of things, with genesis, with the soul. It would also be fascinating to track the effect of Christianity through various parts of the brain. Those of us wandering through it could be the consciousness which turns the brain into a mind.

As I write, I have in front of me a small phrenological head, a Christmas present from one of my children. In the 19th century phrenology was considered of great value. Progress has rubbed out its significance, but the words on the head are intriguing. However crudely, it indicates that the mind is just as differently functioned as the visible body.

The print on the head has Language under the left eye and, above the eye, Number, Order, Colour, Weight, Size and Form. On the left nape of the neck is Amativeness, on the right Creativity. Above Creativity is one of the largest areas, titled "The Region of the Propensities Common to Man and the Lower Animals". Wonder is next to Imitation. Hope is in front of Conscientiousness. Benevolence, Veneration, Firmness and Self-Esteem run along the top middle of the skull. And so it goes on.

Imagine these sections being reconstructed with late 20th-century knowledge and precision inside a space which can swallow Trafalgar Square. Such a sight would draw in the world. Its technology would be a marvel. Its originality would leave people agape in admiration. Who would not want to see the biggest brain the world has ever known?

This is an idea which will generate energy, provoke effort, stir the blood and deliver everything that a dome on such a scale could possibly promise.

It must be hell when an idea whose time has come arrives at the very last second, but the hope is that there is time to take it for what it is — the solution. Hang on to Shakespeare: "Boldness be my friend."

No rules for the scrap metal man

The National Gallery is paying tribute to the sculptor Anthony Caro. Joanna Pitman ventured into the workshop from hell

When I first walked into Sir Anthony Caro's cavernous sculpture production chamber I couldn't see or hear anything remotely artistic. In fact, I couldn't see or hear anything at all.

Oxyacetylene torches were fizzing away at lumps of metal, sending sprays of fireworks dancing across the grimy concrete floor. Great raw slabs of iron balanced perilously against mountains of metal junk. Plumbing fixtures and girders were nonchalantly scattered among the skeletal innards of a refrigerator. And everything was covered in a deep red-brown rust that shone like dried blood. Precious few signs of fine art in the making round here.

"Oooh. Just look at these lovely things." Caro gives a great warble of relish. "I've just had them shipped over from America." We are looking at a rusted anchor the size of a small lorry and a pile of colossal iron barrels. "I think they must be bits of guns. Aren't they wonderful?"

Caro is a gleeful scavenger, a real connoisseur of scrapyards. He scoops up old agricultural implements, bits of cars, ships, even cooking equipment (Lady Caro has to keep a sharp eye on her batterie de cuisine); he once spied a particularly shapely pizza oven in a French restaurant and managed to buy just half of it to bring back for one of his sculptures.

Many of his prize junk finds have gone into a series of welded metal, wood and clay sculptures that will be unveiled this week in the National Gallery's first contemporary sculpture show. It will bring together works made by Caro over the past ten years which take their inspiration from paintings by such artists as Mantegna, Rembrandt, Goya and Matisse, and will focus particularly on a series of sculptures based on Van Gogh's *Chair*.

"This is about how painting can feed sculpture, how old art can feed new art," he says.

> "This is about how painting can feed sculpture"

Caro is almost 74, but he has the intellectual and physical energy of a man half that age, and an appetite for life that is as greedy as a child's. Since the death of Henry Moore in 1986, he has been Britain's most eminent living sculptor. It was in the 1960s that he yanked sculpture off its pedestal and sent it skidding across the floor. Sculpture up to then had been tame and polite, usually figurative and done in marble, bronze or wood. Caro's work challenged our sense of space. He used non-art materials — girders, nuts and bolts — painted in vivid colours and free of historical pomposity.

"It took about a year to rationalise the extent of the shock that this caused," says Brian Robertson, who organised Caro's 1963 Whitechapel Gallery show.

It is still difficult to appreciate the scale of Caro's impact because so many of his innovations have since become the lingua franca of modern sculpture. "Yes, I suppose it was a bit radical. I wasn't trying to be brutal or iconoclastic, just straightforward. I was trying to open up sculpture because it had been so slow to develop. Back then I never thought sculpture would be treated as seriously as it is now."

Still reckless after all these years, Caro is constantly reinventing his own art. Recently, in collaboration with Sir Norman Foster, he ventured into the world of architecture, beating off 274 rivals to design the new Thames footbridge from St Paul's to Bankside. And in the past five years he has put on four blockbuster shows. In 1992 his Trajan Markets show in Rome was marked by critics as his apotheosis as a modern master. In 1994 he re-enacted the Trojan Wars at Kenwood House, creating a 38-piece tableau of dramatic pictorial works that virtually accosted epic Greek history and brought it throbbing to life. He took on Tokyo in 1995 for another huge retrospective, and in 1997 produced *The Last Judgment* in Thessaloníka and Athens.

Caro has never known such a thing as a barren interval; if anything his tempo and range are increasing as he grows older. Gravity seems to be the only law that determines his output. He is typically to be found working on at least two dozen pieces at any time, some of them small table sculptures (just two or three-ton jobs, these), others epic pieces perhaps 70ft long and weighing 20 tons, all of them moulded and manipulated out of the most unforgiving materials.

"I never do drawings. Pat [his foreman] can shape steel like butter. We try not to do our backs in, you see. Terrible curse of the sculptor that, you know . . . I make it and tack it like a dress and then Pat grinds it, cleans it and welds it solid and I take another look and I say 'that's not what I wanted' or 'that's horrible' or 'let's do that again'. We fiddle about a bit."

Caro certainly knows his own mind. As a boy he defied a father who wanted him to be a stockbroker and enrolled at the Royal Academy. At the time the RA specialised in stifling its students with the dead hand of Classicism, so Caro persuaded Henry Moore to take him on as his assistant. From Moore he learnt that there were contemporary rules and that they were there to be broken. But when he went to America in 1959 and became friends with David Smith, the iconoclastic sculptor, and Clement Greenberg, the critic, he saw that rules didn't even have to exist.

And he has never acknowledged them since. This unrepentant radical has never stopped innovating — recently advancing towards semi-figurative work and gleefully experimenting with silver, paper and wax — and never allowed himself to be eclipsed by younger generations. His influence has been subtly pervasive both by example and through his teaching of younger generations including Barry Flanagan, Philip King and Tim Scott.

He is still sheepish about his 1987 knighthood. "I realise Bacon and Moore didn't accept theirs, but I think I felt a bit less secure than they did . . . and my Mum was pleased. It really made a difference to me. Not to my work, though. It was just nice."

● Working After the Masters opens on Wednesday at the National Gallery (0171-839 3321)

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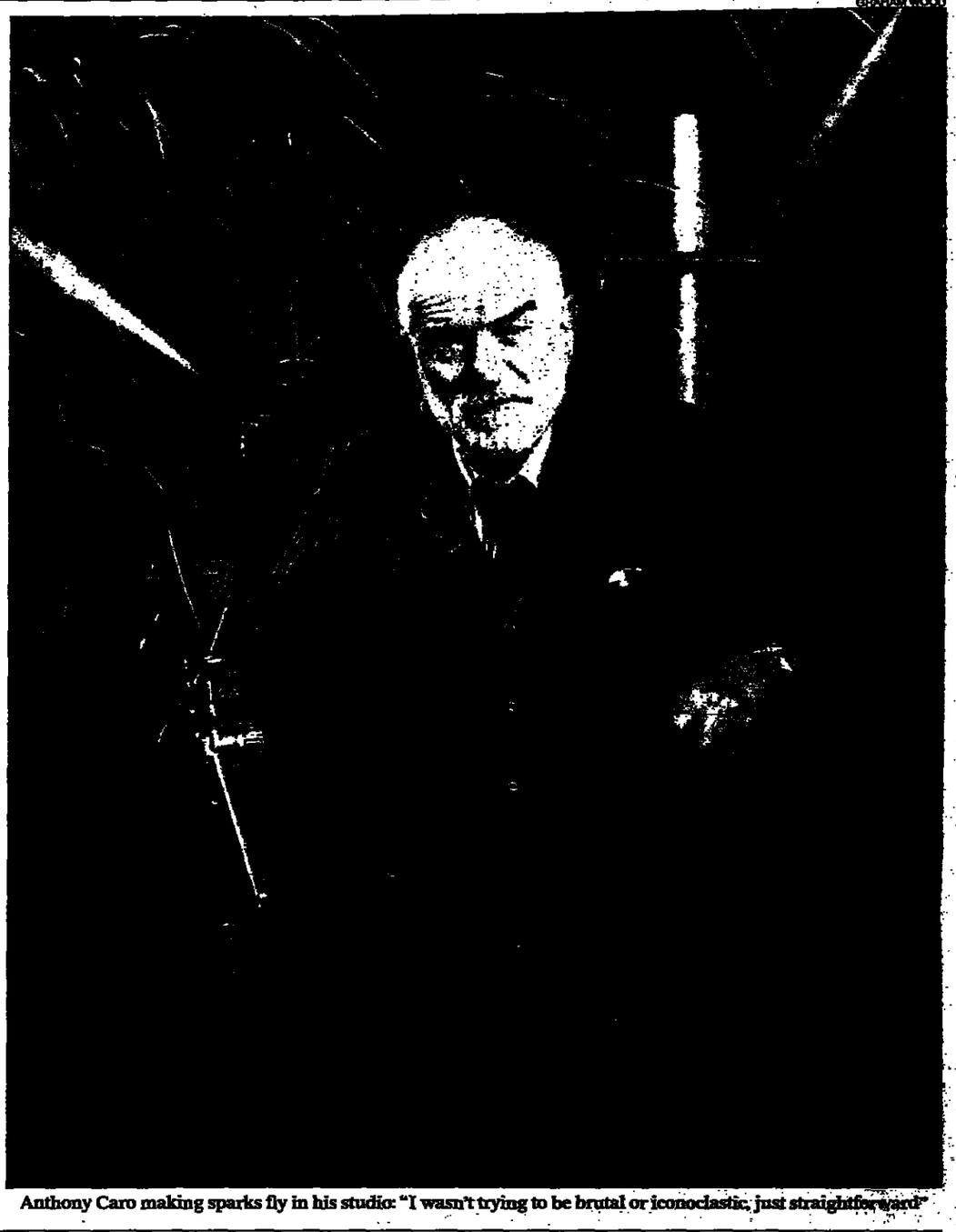

Anthony Caro making sparks fly in his studio: "I wasn't trying to be brutal or iconoclastic, just straightforward"

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CONCERT

THIS was a characteristically rich 20th-century programme from the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Few orchestras would present a quartet of such dense and subtle works in one evening — Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements, Strauss's Four Last Songs and a large-scale premiere from Thea Musgrave. It was clear where the attention had been focused: the orchestra rose to Musgrave's triumphant *Phoenix Rising*, a BBC commission and dedicated to its conductor Andrew Davis.

Musgrave's dramatic tone poem made an immediate impact at the Festival Hall with its urgent discourse between strongly rhythmic rising strings and skittering woodwind showers. Throughout, the music carried the emotional import of the narrative with vivacity.

After the exposing transparency of Ravel and Stravinsky there was a late-Romantic luxury to Musgrave's scoring, made pungent by timpani and horn soloists, with four banks of raised percussion encircling the orchestra from the back.

The result was an aura of percussive sound, threaded through with a lively solo timpani — played by a convincing John Chimes.

While the piece worked as a coherent drama, the orchestral "battle" between timpani and horn as forces of darkness and light, indicated in the score, needs more stylised staging. Nevertheless, the exit of the timpanist and triumph of the horn (Andrew Antcliff) heralded a finale of mesmeric sweetness, to which Strauss's Four Last Songs made a fitting follow-up. Felicity Lott gave a radiant reading. Yet while there were fine solos, one missed a fluidity to the accompaniment, a sense of breathing with the singer. The Ravel *Valses* seemed rooted around a mezzo piano, and therefore faintly subdue in sound and texture. Symphony in Three Movements, Stravinsky's irresistibly rhythmic "war" symphony, was given punch by Elizabeth Burley's muscular piano playing, but more energy was needed to set this performance alight.

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هكذا من الأصل

Something to please everyone

Competition was strong at this year's edition of the Berlin Film Festival. **Geoff Brown** reports

Samuel L. Jackson (right), Berlin's choice for Best Actor, stars alongside Bridget Fonda and Robert De Niro in Quentin Tarantino's new *Jackie Brown*

It is 2.30pm. Time for the press conference following a packed screening of Quentin Tarantino's competition entry, *Jackie Brown*. A Red Cross ambulance, siren blaring, raced down the street as I approached. "Oh oh," I murmured, "there's Tarantino, going to hospital with a burst ego." In fact QT was not even in town; he left the publicity chores to his resplendent stars, Pam Grier and Samuel L. Jackson, and his producer Lawrence Bender. One scribe ventured the view that the film was wildly indulgent; but in general people were kind, and quite rightly.

On balance, Berlin came up with quite a respectable competition section: short, perhaps, on films of stark, staring originality, but short, also, of the outright embarrassments that cause critics to tip up their seats and shuffle towards the exits. Walter Salles's *Central Station* was an early highlight, and finally came away with two statuettes: a Golden Bear for Best Film; and a Silver Bear for Fernanda Montenegro's wonderful performance as the woman helping an orphan boy to find his missing father. Neil Jordan's prize for directing *The Butcher Boy* was less expected: this prickly film clearly takes different people differently.

There was no shortage of variety. One moment, our eyes were being awed by the grandiose landscapes of the Faeroe Islands in Nils Malmros's **Barbara**, an impeccably mounted drama about an 18th-century femme fatale with a particular fondness for pastors. The next, we sat bemused as a plumber sang while unblocking a toilet (in a French Aids musical, **Jeanne and the Perfect Guy**, from the school of Jacques Demy). Or maybe we were in Tasmania, watching Slovenian immigrants go haywire in **The Sound of One Hand Clapping**, an interesting if overearnest directorial debut from the novelist Richard Flanagan. The whole world was our oyster.

Or maybe we were just watching Pam Grier walk. The former star of 1970s "blaxsploitation" movies does a good deal of this in *Jackie Brown*, prideful, no-nonsense, hair flowing. She sets the screen on fire; she also sets other characters on fire, and a good deal of the pleasure in this treatment of Elmore Leonard's thriller *Rum Punch* comes from watching this air stewardess and money smuggler use her charisma to wiggle out of trouble. She certainly charms Robert Forster's bailbondsman, and Michael Keaton's federal agent.

The jury, however, seemed to have been watching Samuel L. Jackson, deliciously funny as a bumptious arms dealer, usually seen grappling with his dumb, drugged-out sidekick, Robert De Niro. For once in a Tarantino movie there is little violence, but a great deal of careful characterisation that needs most, if not all, of the film's 154 minutes for all the benefits to be felt. The boy wonder might just possibly be maturing.

Wag the Dog scored well, too, in the pleasure stakes. Not least with the festival jury, who gave the film the special jury prize. How can you not laugh as the White House crisis management team summons Dustin Hoffman's Hollywood producer to stage a diversionary war on TV in the final days of the re-election campaign of a President smeared with a sex scandal? Not everything is unalloyed bliss: Barry Levinson's film slowly runs out of steam once the situation has been set up. Yet it still has more puff — and more topicality — than most Hollywood comedies.

No film festival, however, is worth its salt without a big dose of misery. So many characters up on the screen suffered untold agonies through sexual frustrations, abusive parents, or good old existential angst. In some cases it was hard to shed sympathetic tears. In **I Want You**, a seaside drama of obsessive love from Britain's hottest film-maker, Michael Winterbottom, the director's strong visual style and commitment to passion is never in doubt: English restraint certainly goes by the board in the sex scenes. But there is so much posturing as hairdresser Rachel Reisz suffers the loving gazes of a silent 14-year-old refugee and the unwanted attentions of her former boyfriend, convicted of murder but now on parole. In short, you just don't believe it.

The Boys, Australia's second competition entry, gives you no choice: you are thrust so close to the Sprague family in working-class Sydney that you either join in their turbulent lives or you run from the cinema in search of *The Sound of Music*. Rowan Woods's powerful, almost terrifying, film is based on a play by Stephen Sewell, and two of the stage production's actors take leading roles. David Wenham is unforgettable as the criminal son, boiling over with male aggression when let out of prison on probation: Lynette Curran also impresses as the weary mother, trying to keep her sons and their put-upon girlfriends in order. After *The Boys*, you may never want to be the Spragues' house guest, but at least you understand better the cocktail of fear, frustration and hormones that drives the males to such violence.

Life was also no bed of roses for the heroine of **The Sent-Down Girl**. This sounds like a companion piece to Enid Blyton's ripping book *The Naughtiest Girl in the School*. In fact the action takes place in China during the Cultural Revolution's last gasp; and the "sent-down girl" is sent, like millions of others, to spend six months away from all temptations of city life and family, getting close to the land, herding horses. She starts off a sweet thing in braids; she ends up a whore. The film marks the directorial debut of the actress Joan Chen (familiar from Hollywood, not to mention *Twin Peaks*). Her style is conventional but sturdy; and her young leading actress, Lu Lu, makes sure that hearts are touched by the drama of innocence lost.

Beyond the competition, there were so many temptations, from a Portuguese film called *Dribbling Fate* to the Korean *Timeless Bottomless Bad Movie*, featured in the festival's regular showcase of works from cinema's outer limits, the International Forum of Young Cinema.

We could also bask in the festival's retrospective, one of the most entertaining in years, devoted to Robert and Curt Siodmak, film-making brothers born in Dresden almost a century ago, who hopped countries as time and history dictated. After exciting work in Europe, Robert's Hollywood specialty became top-notch psychological thrillers like *The Spiral Staircase* and *The Suspect*, drenched with Expressionist dark shadows. Curt, usually employed as a script-writer, found his own happy niche with Universal horror movies, or tales about talking brains. He is still with us, aged 97, and unlike Tarantino was in Berlin to prove it.

THE BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS

Best Film (Golden Bear)..... *Central Station*
Special Jury Prize (Silver Bear)..... *Wag the Dog*
Best Director..... Neil Jordan *(The Butcher Boy)*
Best Actor..... Samuel L. Jackson *(Jackie Brown)*
Best Actress..... Fernanda Montenegro *(Central Station)*

This week in THE TIMES

■ MUSIC

Riccardo Muti conducts the Vienna Philharmonic in Manchester
CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ OPERA

Rosa Mannion sings four *roles in ENO's new Tales of Hoffmann*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ FILM

A slave revolt becomes a legal battle: Morgan Freeman stars in *Amistad*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ POP

Can Madonna's new dance album *Ray of Light* restore her street-cred?
RELEASED: March 2
REVIEW: Friday

■ PLUS: Northern Ballet *Theatre's new Hunchback* opens in Leeds tonight

The magic lantern show

OPERA
Madam Butterfly
Albert Hall

Liping Zhang sings Butterfly

We all know that Raymond Gubbay doesn't read the critics, but with luck his lieutenants give him an accurate digest before he starts slagging them off. I hate to disrupt his agreeable gladiatorial contest with the press, but this old critic had really rather a good time at the first night of his *Madam Butterfly*.

Each of his arena productions is better than the previous one, and he has struck gold with his director and designer this year. David Roger's water-garden set is exceedingly pretty in the best sense, and the tableau for the love duet, with Japanese lanterns reflected on the water and nightlights floating in it, would melt the sternest critical heart. Draining the water away in the interval brings an apt air of desolation to the second half. Andrew Bridge's lighting is helpful throughout in creating mood, and he rises to the challenge of the dusk-to-dawn effect for Butterfly's vigil, which was what attracted Puccini to Belasco's play in the first place.

David Freeman's production is — perhaps surprisingly — simplicity itself, focused tightly on character and motivation. To be sure, there are supernumeraries, as there always are with this director, including a Players Navy Cut sailor on Pinkerton's staff, but they are deployed with purpose and discretion, and his blocking is both fluid and audience-in-the-round-friendly. There are two genuine *coups de théâtre*, one of them the arrival of the Bonze, the other the first appearance of Butterfly's child, a merciless assault on the tear-ducts.

Liping Zhang, Chinese-born and domiciled in Canada, is ideal casting for a Butterfly who becomes thoroughly Westernised during Pinkerton's three-year absence. A smart silk gown, high heels and an Edwardian hair-do transform her physically as radically as her skilled acting does spiritually. A convincing teenager in the first act, she is no yielding, passive victim in the second, rather a proud, dignified and at times quite angry woman — with reason. Her tough, mettlesome soprano sounded unyielding at first, but she relaxed and gave us some beautifully moulded singing later on.

The rest of the cast is more homely, but honest. Craig Downes makes Pinkerton a very ordinary chap, not a villain yet not sympathetic enough for his lighting a cigarette to excite the attention of the thought-police. Keith Latham's US Consul and Marcia Bellamy's Suzuki take especial care with Amanda Holden's new and faithful English translation — or what could be heard through the muffling amplification. This is the one thing that divides Gubbay and the press, but given a production in the round, it has to be, and it got better as the evening progressed.

Peter Robinson is a conductor who knows his Puccini, knows when to press on, when to hold back, just how to shape the tunes. The BBC Concert Orchestra played attentively. The acid test is, does this pitiless tale of everyday human perfidy work in the Albert Hall? To judge from my furtive snuffle-meter, yes.

RODNEY MILNES

● *This review appeared in some editions last week*

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Clinton is losing on the home front

Bronwen Maddox on a deeply sceptical American public

In the old joke about Cable News Network, a New Yorker goes into a bar in the American heartland and berates the occupants for their provincialism, above all for their failure to subscribe to the 24-hour news channel. Then he switches on the bar's television to find CNN's familiar bland voices crotcheting together videotaped segments from the world's flashpoints, and protests: "I thought you said you didn't get it." "Oh, we receive it," the bartender says, "we just don't get it."

Except now the joke is on the Clinton Administration. It has spent one of the most politically inept weeks in its history, attempting to educate the heartland about the merits of waging war on Iraq. The message that Middle America is sending back is that it has thought plenty about the prospect — and doesn't much like it. A *Newsweek* poll yesterday recorded 18 per cent in favour of military strikes, and 39 per cent against. More than a third — 36 per cent — are in favour only if strikes eliminated Saddam Hussein, a goal the Administration acknowledges as unrealistic.

As well as popular scepticism, the Administration faces congressional ambivalence. Abroad, with the exception of President Clinton's self-described "friend and colleague" Tony Blair, it is isolated. As the world waits for the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to conclude the diplomatic endgame with Baghdad, the Administration is now asking how it put itself into such political peril.

> Middle America has looked at the prospect of a Gulf war — and doesn't like it

It misjudged the public mood partly because it underestimated the public's sophistication — its ability to make up its own mind without spin from Washington. A public prepared to forgive Mr Clinton what it says it believes — that he had some kind of sex with Monica Lewinsky in his office — is also worldly enough to weigh up the odds in the Gulf and find them wanting.

That misjudgment showed at its rawest in Wednesday's now-notorious "Town Hall" meeting in Columbus, Ohio, when the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the Defence Secretary William Cohen and the National Security Adviser Sandy Berger fielded questions from a sceptical audience. Stiff and bulky-bodied, perched on flimsy chairs in a basketball arena, the trio fumbled question after question, stalling with patronising dismissals. Asked why the US was not tougher on other rogue states, Ms Albright directed the questioner, a history teacher, to "study carefully what American foreign policy is".

Of course, Mr Clinton should have done the job instead. But the Lewinsky saga has made him a prisoner of Pennsylvania Avenue, too fearful to expose himself to public questioning. His set-piece speech at the Pentagon last week extolled the US's military might — but the weapon the Administration most needs, and cannot currently deploy, is the President's popular touch.

Given the public's ambivalence, it is not surprising that congressional backing for action is still in doubt, although Senator John McCain has rallied an important minority behind his call for bombing until Iraq capitulates.

The Administration appears more startled at the lack of support from foreign governments, and at the way the consensus between the US, Europe and Arab states achieved after the 1991 war has dissolved. It should not be: that second misjudgment stems from at least two profound muddles in American foreign policy.

As Ohio questioners vigorously told the embattled trio, America has neglected the growing anti-US mood in the Arab world. Ms Albright maintains indignantly that the Iraq stand-off is entirely "separate" from the unravelling of the Middle East peace process since the election of Binyamin Netanyahu in Israel.

But it is no secret that Arab nations blame America for failing or refusing to hold Israel to its UN commitments. The White House thought it snubbed Mr Netanyahu last month when it sent him to lunch with Vice-President Al Gore in the cafeteria; to others, it still looked like hospitality. In provoking a confrontation, Saddam appears to have sensed that shift of the region's mood.

The US has also deluded itself for seven years about the likely success of sanctions in weakening Iraq, and about the willingness of all European countries and Russia to back a policy so much at odds with their trading interests. Ironically, the State Department has just begun a long-overdue review of its fondness for sanctions, now in force against some 70 countries, acknowledging that they are often futile, or even counter-productive.

Mr Blair's rush to pledge his support for Mr Clinton earlier this month in Washington looks even riskier now than it did then. Political contamination from the Lewinsky affair was the threat on which he focused — and which he brushed away, calling for voters to focus on the issues which really matter.

But the real risk is that, in both Britain and America, they may do just that — hold their political leaders to task for losing lives in a war for which they have a shaky mandate and which arguably stems from long-standing misjudgments in US foreign policy. If the bombs do start dropping, Mr Clinton will owe Mr Blair more than the walkabout in Belfast which seemed fair payment for overlooking Monica Lewinsky.

Having put itself in this pickle, the Administration now needs to buy time; its best hope is to be seen to have exhausted all diplomatic channels. But beyond that, its planned intensive campaign this week to convert the heartland may be doomed. The problem is not that favourite political lament, of a "failure to communicate". The real obstacle is that the public may hear the message, and reject it.

Lord Irvine's real concern is the defence of our liberties — whatever the size of his decorator's bill

Never judge a man by his wallpaper

William Rees-Mogg

For a long time I have been fascinated by the brilliant but enigmatic career in the 17th century of Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl of Shaftesbury. My interest in him started because of his connection with the philosopher John Locke who was his secretary, his doctor and his friend. It grew because so much of his political work has survived into our time. We think of Locke as the ideologist of the Whig revolution of 1688, which leads down, through the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, to the liberal democracy of the Western world at the end of the 20th century. Locke did, indeed, develop the ideas, but Shaftesbury, though he did not live to see their victory, was the political leader; he created the party which gave liberty to England.

In 1750 the *Biographia Britannica*, which was the 18th-century forerunner of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, stated flatly that Shaftesbury was "one of the ablest persons, greatest politicians, and most distinguished ministers in the last century". That could hardly be denied. Yet he is now more widely remembered as the subject of Dryden's magnificent attack in *Absalom and Achitophel*.

"Of these the false Achitophel was first;
A name to all succeeding ages curst:
For close designs, and crooked counsels fit;
Sagacious, bold and turbulent of wit . . .
A daring pilot in extremity;
Pleased with the danger when the waves went high,
He sought the storms, but, for a calm unfit,
Would steer too nigh the sands to boast his wit . . .
In friendship false, implacable in hate;
Resolved to ruin or to rule the state."

Last week I discovered a family reason to appreciate the dangers of Shaftesbury's friendships. I had an hour to spare at the London Library. My grandmother had been given "Walcot" as her second forename, after her grandmother, so I looked up an entry to the Walcot family. I discovered that we were all descended from a Captain Thomas Walcot, who was executed at Tyburn on July 20, 1683, for his part in the Rye House Plot; that was a quarter-baked conspiracy to kill King Charles II on his way back from Newmarket. It never amounted to much, but led to the execution of a number of half-innocent, half-guilty men.

It comes as a shock to learn that one's great grandfather, however many times removed — I think he lived nine generations ago — was executed as a traitor and had his head stuck up on Aldersgate. I feel profoundly sorry for him. Probably Shaftesbury was most to blame, though he had died six months earlier. Captain Walcot was a muddle-headed soldier, living in Ireland with his wife and eight young children. Shaftesbury promised to make him a colonel and even offered to make him Governor of Carolina. He left him some money in his will. After the failure of the the Exclusion Bill, which would have prevented the succession of James II, Shaftesbury fled to The Netherlands; he took Walcot with him, talked of an armed rebellion in which Walcot was to be a senior officer, and died. Walcot returned to London, gossiped with co-conspirators, was denounced, arrested, convicted and executed. Shaftesbury was not a safe man to know; contemporary wits called him Shiftesbury, because he was so devious.

Yet he had great quality. He was engagingly witty; it was Shaftesbury, not as has been said Disreali, who was asked his views of religion a by a young lady at dinner. "Madam, wise men are of but one religion." She pressed him to say what that religion might be. "Madam, wise men never tell." He is said to have had only two real friends in his lifetime, John Locke and Charles II, though he became Charles's most formidable opponent. If one were to choose two friends out of the whole of the English 17th century, one could not do much better. He was an excellent Lord Chancellor in the early 1670s, particularly strong on constitutional law. He was brave, being imprisoned for his politics at least once under the Commonwealth and twice under Charles II.

He did, of course, change sides again and again. In the Civil War he started fighting for the King, switched to fighting for Parliament, switched to intriguing for the Restoration, and ended as one of the commissioners who condemned the regicides. He supported Charles II as a minister and a friend; he backed the Exclusion Bill and died in exile. He claimed that he always moved towards the side which proved right, but his judgment was justified in the event; his apparently unprincipled career is broadly consistent with the principles of liberty and constitutional monarchy which triumphed in 1688. He formed the Whig Party, and was conspiring to bring about the eventual 1688 settlement ten years before it happened.

Shaftesbury even played his part in the long-running if minor controversy in which Lord Irvine of Lairg has become involved. Indeed, he is a better witness than Cardinal Wolsey for the Lord Chancellor's defence, since he specifically defended the concept of grandeur as a necessary part of the Lord Chancellor's role. Shaftesbury would not have considered the Lord Chancellor's apartment in the Palace of Westminster as anything like grand enough. Throughout his period of office he resided at Exeter House, in the Strand. He went in solemn procession from that palatial building down to Westminster. It is stated in *Collins's Peerage* that he did so because he thought that ceremony and state were both useful and necessary to keep up the credit of great offices.

He said to Baron Thurlands, who remembered the observation, that "reputation is a thing of consequence to magistrates as well as merchants". He was also much more splendidly dressed than Lord Irvine would aspire to. "He wore an ash-coloured silk gown, richly laced, and did not at all alter his garb upon accession to that high seat of judicature." He did not think he should dress down to the office of Lord Chancellor.

According to the historian Gilbert Burnet, who became Bishop of Salisbury under William III, Shaftesbury's greatest moment in Parliament came in 1675, when he led the opposition in the House of Lords to the new Test Bill. "Lord Shaftesbury distinguished himself more in this session than ever he had done before . . . 'If a king would make us a province, and tributary to France, and subdue the nation by a French army, or to the Papal authority, must we be bound in that case tamely to submit?' upon which he said many things that did cut to the quick."

Lord Irvine, both as Lord Chancellor and as chairman of the Cabinet Committee on the Constitution, has more influence than anyone except the Prime Minister on the way the constitution develops. We are still living under a Whig constitution, which emerged from Lord Shaftesbury's period; one of liberty and independence under a sovereign Parliament. There is now an erosion of this constitution, which Lord Irvine will either tend to accelerate or reverse.

Whatever view one may take of the argument that grandeur re-enforces the great offices of state, Lord Chancellors should be judged not by their wallpaper but by their contribution to the English tradition of liberty under the law. It does not matter whether Lord Irvine sleeps in an £8,000 bed, or, like an even greater predecessor Thomas More, in a hairshirt. Our liberties are in his hands and Shaftesbury should be his example.

Start sweeping, Mr Hague

Simply talking about new brooms is not enough, says **Peter Riddell**

The Conservatives have at last begun to think. William Hague will tomorrow evening argue that the Tories cannot just attack the wide-ranging constitutional changes now being introduced. They also have to develop their own constitutional programme. Mr Hague will sketch a broad outline, rather than a detailed picture. But, at least, the Tories are abandoning their pre-election complacency on the constitution and have started to look at the very different political landscape they are likely to face when they are next in office.

Merely to write these words strains credibility. Although Tory frontbenchers argue that the gloss will come off the Blair Government within a year or two, very few seriously believe they will win the next election. Of course, they have to plan on the basis that they *might*, even if in the short term such patient preparations are unlikely to be rewarded, or attract media attention.

Peter Lilley and David Willetts, who are co-ordinating the Tories' policy review, have started with a study of past Oppositions. Their conclusion is that Oppositions have gone wrong when they have been obsessed with refighting the battles of previous periods in government (Labour in 1979-83), or when they have made premature policy commitments (the Heath team over trade union law after the 1966 defeat and Labour over pensions and child benefit in the 1987-92 Parliament). Circumstances can, and usually do, change to make such early promises redundant or a nuisance.

The trouble is not knowing what the constitution will look like at the next election, such is the current pace of legislation. The Commons will spend seven of the next eight main parliamentary days considering Bills to set up the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly and to bring in proportional representation for the European elections. And there is reform of the Lords, and possibly of the electoral system for the Commons, to come.

The Tories strongly oppose most of these proposals. But it will be impossible to turn the clock back after the next election, nor will Mr Hague promise to do so. Indeed, he will concede tomorrow that the Tories have been too slow to recognise the desire for change.

The very radicalism of the Government's programme has stirred a previously dormant debate within the Tory party, with calls for some form of English Parliament and an elected second chamber. The Centre for Policy Studies, the original Thatcherite think-tank, which is hosting Mr Hague's lecture tomorrow, held a seminar in early December to discuss a federal constitution. This was put forward by John Barnes, a Tory academic from the London School of Economics. He argued that provincial parliaments for England, as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, beneath a federal parliament at Westminster, could strengthen the Union.

Mr Hague is a long way from making such commitments. He in any case has to balance divergent pressures. Some Scottish Tories favour greater independence that could lead to a breakaway on the Ulster Unionist pattern; some peers such as Viscount Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, prefer a cautious, reactive stance; while some right-wing MPs, like Eric Forth, want a more distinctively English approach. The Tories are ambivalent about the English question. They warn of "fanning the flames of English nationalism", yet half hope it might counter Labour dominance in Scotland and Wales.

The Government's plans are certainly flawed. The Scotland Bill virtually ignores the implications for the UK as a whole, or for the Commons — apart from hinting at vague understandings about funding arrangements and eventually reducing the number of Scottish MPs. But short of federalism there are no clear-cut solutions, as has been pointed out by Michael Ancram, who has emerged since the election as a thoughtful and assiduous constitutional affairs spokesman. Designating Bills as specifically English and Welsh, and barring Scottish MPs from speaking and voting on them, would create two classes of Members, while having an English Grand Committee might undermine the integrity of the Westminster Parliament.

Similarly, the Government's proposals for a phased reform of the Lords are likely to trip up over the absence of an agreed long-term alternative. Few, apart from Tory ultras, are any longer prepared to defend heredity as a basis for a legislature, but many across the political spectrum are nervous about having an entirely nominated second chamber, except during a strictly limited interim phase. Mr Hague has reaffirmed the principles put forward by Lord Cranborne that a reformed House must not increase the powers of the Prime Minister, must hold the Government to account better than now, must include a substantial number of independents, must be drawn from all parts of the UK, and must take into account the impact on the Commons, which must remain supreme.

Mr Hague is right to focus on Parliament, and in particular the shortcomings of the Commons. But what is lacking in the Hague-Ancram approach is an overall view of the constitution. If, as they argue, Labour is plotting a revolution, should not the Tories be advocating a formal system of checks and balances? Instead of attacking incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and any extension in the role of the judiciary, should not the Tories be welcoming the creation of a written constitution as a bulwark against further radical change? It is certainly desirable to strengthen Parliament, but a reformed second chamber could have a special role in protecting the constitution.

Mr Hague will disappoint the last-ditchers tomorrow. But saying you are open to fresh thinking is not enough. The Tories now have the chance to outflank Labour and emerge as guardians of constitutional rights and democratic accountability. It is time to be bold.

Crying foul

HAS Chris Smith been snooping on the business affairs of Francis Maude, his Conservative counterpart? I ask because Julian Eccles, the Culture Secretary's special adviser, has lodged a request with the department's library for the latest accounts of Benfield Reinsurance: non-executive director, one Francis Maude.

The company was once part of the commercial empire of Matthew Harding, the late vice-chairman of Chelsea FC, and it was Harding who drafted his friend Maude on to the board. Maude is unsettled by the request and has written to the Cabinet Office to find out more. "The only explanation for this is that Mr Smith's office is attempting, rather incompetently, to research into my business interest," he tells me indignantly.

It seems to be Maude's link with Harding that intrigues Smith's team. "Eccles is a Fulham fan," says one of his aides. "He was mildly curious about the connection between the company and Chelsea after Ruud Gullit's departure as team manager."

Eccles, a former student activist and PR consultant, usually tries to keep a low profile — although he was thrust reluctantly into the limelight last November. As he walked to the House of Commons, a bus knocked a lamppost down onto his brawny frame. The accident prompted Gerald Kaufman to ask, waspishly, if the lamppost had been taken to hospital.

What's the game? Gullit, Smith

● *MOTHER TERESA continues to perform miracles. Sir Paul McCartney and George Harrison will play at a concert in her honour later this year — their first live performance together since the break-up of the Beatles. Harrison's former guru Ravi Shankar will also perform at the Calcutta concert in September, and is hoping to jam with the pair.*

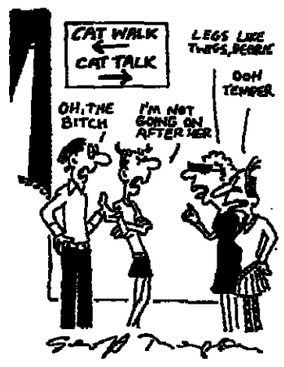
History man

HUGH TREVOR-ROPER, the distinguished historian who "authenticated" the "*Hitler Diaries*", is to publish his memoirs. Ennobled as Lord Dacre of Glanton, he has been nudged into producing the book by Frank Johnson, the Editor of the *Spectator* and Dacre acolyte.

"Hugh's eyes have gone, so he can't write," explains Johnson. "I have had lengthy conversations with him, and they will be transcribed into a book." He says Dacre will recall his experiences in post-war Berlin, the donnish rivalries at Oxford, where he was Regius Professor of Modern History, and — boldly — his misauthentication of the "*Diaries*". Johnson says we can look forward to "a candid explanation" of the affair: "He doesn't excuse himself from blame."

Fighting talk

ONE of the great philosophical debates of our time has been reignited. Did Wittgenstein really threaten Karl Popper with a poker? According to Popper, his fellow thinker waved the poker at him during a debate. Now Peter Geach, who saw the tiff, has written to *The Times Literary Supplement*: "Popper is a liar," claims Geach, who said so to the great man. "Shortly before his death, he wrote to me asking for an apology; I did not and will not apologise." Now boys, time to beatle back into your boxes.



● *A TRICKY first day in the office for the Lib Dems' answer to Alastair Campbell. David Walters's new job as director of media communications was clouded in such secrecy that nobody in Cowley Street knew he was coming — leaving the former television man without a desk or a phone.*

Here's Howe

PECULIAR handshakes are no longer enough. As they face renewed attack on their lack of transparency, the Freemasons have hired their own special adviser. Derek Howe advises the United Grand Lodge, and was on hand last week to help Commander Michael Higham, Grand Secretary of the lodge, as he was grilled in Parliament. Howe, who was Margaret Thatcher's press officer when she was Leader of the Opposition, now prefers the quiet life: he lists his recreations as "gardening, reading, philately, Freemasonry".

THE squat-dwelling daughter of Alan Howarth has gone legit. Catherine Howarth, pictured with her father, an Employment Minister, was discovered by the *Diary* in a Hackney hovel. Now she is following him into the respectable embrace of new Labour by taking a post with the New Policy Institute, a Blairite think-tank with a mild social conscience.

● *WHY was Michael Douglas, the libidinous Hollywood actor, lunching in a London restaurant with Sally Bulloch, from the Athenaeum Hotel, and Albert Finney? "He has a hotel in Bermuda which he is about to pour money into, and he wanted their advice," says my man in the peaked cap. My tip: don't hire a barman with Finney's legendary thirst.*

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الاصل

الصفحة ١٥٤ من الأصل

ator's bill

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JAPAN IN THE DOCK

Justified plain speaking by the Group of Seven

The outcome of the weekend's meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers was unusually acrimonious and unusually welcome. For once, the finance ministers, central bank governors and top international civil servants who were gathered under Gordon Brown's chairmanship in London did not restrict themselves to platitudes about enhancing global co-operation and remaining vigilant against protectionism and financial instability. Faced by a genuine economic crisis in Asia, and one with potentially serious implications for the world economy, the finance ministers of America and Europe went beyond the euphemisms of their pre-written communiqué and pointed their fingers directly at Japan, which bears much responsibility for the Asian crisis and which now has more power than any other to safeguard the world economy from further unnecessary damage.

If Hikaru Matsunaga, the new Japanese Finance Minister, who emerged only three weeks ago through the revolving door of his country's political system, was shocked by the hostility he encountered in London, that shock should be salutary and has come not a moment too soon. Mr Matsunaga was expected to come to London with a detailed and convincing plan for pulling his economy out of a period of stagnation that has now lasted seven years. Above all, the other members of the G7 sought decisive action to reverse the collapse of domestic consumption and investment, caused by the astonishingly imprudent tax increase which the Government of Ryutaro Hashimoto imposed last April. A reduction in taxes to undo the damage done by this misguided increase is now acknowledged, even in Tokyo, as the minimum required to prevent a full-scale recession in Japan. Such a recession might not only trigger a 1930s-style depression in the rest of Asia; it would certainly lead to a further compression in Japan's inadequate imports and increase the already enormous imbalance in its trade.

What Mr Matsunaga brought to London instead was a laundry list of minor administrative measures plus a commitment to take unspecifed further action "if necessary", while the budget continued tightening the fiscal stance. The net effect on Japan's domestic demand and imports would be zero or even slightly worse. Japan's "virtual policy", as the US dismissively described it, misreads the mood and the times.

The G7 did not, of course, expect that a great nation like Japan would alter its domestic policies purely for the sake of international co-operation. This would be both unrealistic and arrogant. Japan is a sovereign nation. It has neither a legal nor a moral obligation to sacrifice the interests of its people to pull its neighbours out of recession or to prevent the accumulation of dangerously unsustainable imbalances in world trade. The G7 ministers understand better than most people that nations put their domestic interests before those of their neighbours and trading partners.

In Japan today, however, there is no conflict between domestic and global responsibilities. The policies sought by the G7 are exactly those required to strengthen the domestic economy. They are also the policies demanded by Japan's business community, by the Tokyo financial markets and by public opinion at large. The real obstacle to early enactment of the tax cuts now desperately needed in Japan is not national interest. It is the pride of the Japanese political establishment — and above all, of Mr Hashimoto, who still cannot bring himself to admit that his tax increase of 1997 was wrong. Since Japan's problem now is largely a matter of personal psychology, the G7 were right to be unwontedly blunt, even personal, in their criticisms. Mr Hashimoto must now ponder a simple question. Which will involve the greater humiliation: to admit that he erred in raising taxes, or to be treated as an incompetent outcast by the rest of the G7 club?

DEMOCRATIC MYSTERIES

India's voters have a vital role in its modernisation

The staging of parliamentary elections in India has become a logistical marathon. At 605.3 million, the number of eligible voters far outstrips India's total population at independence, making it necessary to stagger the voting process over five phases. Even with 4.5 million election officials and substantial military and police back-up, it is impossible otherwise to monitor 900,000 polling stations. By imposing a 22-fold increase in the deposit, India's Election Commission has pared the number of candidates from 13,592 in 1996 to 4,693 this year; but the number of registered parties, some of them minute, is still a bewildering 662.

Elections are also stormier affairs than they used to be. The criminalisation of Indian politics, a side-effect of a judicial process so slow that candidates can continue in politics for years despite the charges outstanding against them, has become a national scandal. Bombs, kidnappings and organised violence have replaced sporadic and controllable protests by over-excited mobs wielding sticks. India has added the phrase "booth capturing" to the English political lexicon. This year's voting began badly last Monday in crime-ridden Bihar, where reruns were ordered at 1,500 stations and all votes in the state capital, Patna, were declared void after armed gangs stormed into booths to tear up ballot papers. Yesterday's second phase was relatively peaceful; a toll of eight dead has, with reason, come to be seen as "very satisfying".

Above all, Indian elections no longer end in clear-cut political victories. The days when the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty's Congress Party dominated the political stage are gone, probably for good, in favour of coalitions of numbing complexity that almost never serve their full five-year terms. This is India's second general election in two years. It would have come even earlier but for a coalition-rescuing change of Prime Minister last summer. That brief truce ended when Congress, chafing in opposition, forced fresh elections that it cannot hope to win.

The cumulative effect is to render India not only the world's largest democracy, but its most confusing. Indians are not alone in desiring a greater measure of clarity, predictability and above all durability in their governments. Yet these expensive and increasingly frequent calls on the voter are a necessary part of India's breaking of the post-Independence political mould that the Congress Party had come to take for granted. During its long years of dominance, this vast and heterogeneous country was subjected to an unhealthy degree of centralisation.

The rise of regional parties, reflected in the outgoing coalition of Inder Kumar Gujral, is thus a natural corrective to Delhi's accumulation of powers which should not be misinterpreted as a portent of India's fragmentation. Greater respect for local decision-making is as much a part of the modernisation of India as is the economic liberalisation set in train in 1991.

More troubling, because potentially more divisive, has been the growth of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It emerged as the single largest party in 1996, and is expected to do as well or better this time. But elections have imposed their discipline on the BJP; to win votes, it has modified its anti-Muslim rhetoric. That it should have to do so in a country which is 82 per cent Hindu is encouraging. So is the fact that while Indians do not trust their politicians, they have not lost their appetite for turning out in the belief that elections are still their best opportunity to bring about change.

HALF-TERM HANGOVER

Long weekends might suit both families and teachers better

So who else has that end-of-half-term feeling? Many working parents will have spent last week juggling deadlines in order to give time to their children, while keeping their employers and colleagues more or less happy. By now, they are ready for a holiday themselves. Despite all the child-centred hyperactivity, most are plagued by guilt, having offloaded the little darlings on other adults as often as possible and spent much of their "quality time" dealing with the eternal plaintive cry: "Mummy/Daddy, I'm *bored*." Yet, as the youngsters go back to school this week, few grown-ups will resist a heartfelt, if sneaking, sigh of relief.

They probably feel guilty towards other adults, too: that long-suffering neighbour who, because she does not go out to work, always seems to step into the breach; grandparents who never complain but may have busy lives of their own; the single relations and friends upon whose patience they may have presumed once too often ...

Is half-term really necessary? Do children always enjoy the absence of school routine? Do even the delights of family treats make up for the stress of organising them? Does not the notion of taking a week off, midway between each main holiday, presuppose a family structure — with one, usually female, parent devoted to full-time childcare — to which few households now conform?

These are all serious questions. But half-term has its defenders. It gives teachers time to catch up and plan ahead. Hardworking parents and children may lead such separate lives that frequent holidays are all that prevent them becoming virtual strangers. Half-term has always made most sense for pupils at boarding school: it ensures that parents can at least recognise their offspring. For the vast majority of pupils, the rationale is less clear. When half the population worked on the land, there was a need to break at least the autumn term for children to help with the harvest. But that temporal template is now obsolete.

Perhaps it is time to redistribute half-term throughout the academic year. Rather than imposing three breaks of up to ten days, causing the maximum inconvenience, schools might offer pupils and staff regular long weekends: long enough for families to go away or relax at home, but not long enough to get bored. It might suit teachers too, many of whom are also parents. Certainly schools should be more flexible. It is a sad fact, reflected in our steadily falling birthrate, that many adults now regard children merely as a burden, an expense, or an interruption to their careers. For good parents, making time to be with the children is supremely important. As presently organised, half-term does not help them to do so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Chunnel link: saving money, time and the environment

From the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, Your report (Business, February 10) that Railtrack proposes to save £2.7 billion by shortening the Channel Tunnel rail link highlights a major challenge to the Government's strategy to integrate land-use and transport planning.

If the Railtrack proposal were to be agreed then ostensibly the £2.7 billion would be saved at the cost of only 17 minutes or so on the journey time to Central London. But the true costs, as the council leaders point out in their letter today, would be immeasurably greater. The impacts on the Thames Gateway strategy if Ebbsfleet station is not built; on the redevelopment of East London if the Stratford interchange does not proceed; the regeneration of the King's Cross/St Pancras area if the new terminal and interchange are not located there; the reduced returns on the Jubilee Line extension; and the lost scope for achieving increased densities within urban London — all these would be felt as massive long-term costs.

The stimulus to economic activity and employment which the rail link would bring to these areas, the enhancement of underlying land values, the willingness of developers to invest in housing, and the consequent reduction in development pressures on the west side of London and, arguably, on greenfield sites throughout the South East — these are the factors which need to be fed into this decision.

If the direct freight link beyond London to the regions is abandoned, efforts to transfer continental freight from road to rail will be frustrated, with the obvious adverse impact on meeting the Government's air quality and traffic reduction targets.

No other conceivable package of measures could bring the same benefits of regeneration as this investment in transport infrastructure. Seen in this context the long-term value of the link will be vastly greater than the illusory savings offered by the Railtrack proposal — and lasting for generations rather than 17 minutes.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR ROBERTS,
President,
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1N 4BE.
February 17.

From Mr Stephen Plowden

Sir, The leader of Camden Council and his co-signatories (letter, February 17) appear to be unaware that the proposed high-speed link is not designed to carry freight and that it will make virtually no difference to the amount of freight the tunnel attracts, or that it removes from the road.

They also ignore the fact that the most optimistic forecasts never showed the tunnel attracting many rail passengers from north of London, which would require a frequency of service far exceeding any possible demand.

The official "justification" for giving London and Continental Railways the very valuable assets already handed over, and for the further subsidy of £1.8 billion which it was proposed to give them once the line was complete, is contained in a document laid in Parliament, but never debated, in March 1996. The figures in this document are highly contentious; even if taken at their face value, they only justify the public expenditure involved on the extraordinary assumption that the taxpayer has an interest in subsidising travellers by Eurostar, most of whom can readily afford to fly.

The true motive for this project is that it is thought to be an intolerable affront to our national pride that the train moves faster in France than in England. It is for this childish reason that it is proposed to spend huge sums of public money on the rail link and to cause lasting damage to the environment of both London and Kent.

Yours etc,
STEPHEN PLOWDEN
(Transport planner),
69 Albert Street, NW1 7LX.
February 18.

From Mr Dave Stewart

Sir, At last some spirited support for the Channel Tunnel rail link from various council leaders who recognise this long-delayed scheme as an asset to the whole of Britain, not just London and the South East.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that insular economic and political interests in the South East have contributed largely to this delay. This, together with the confusion caused by rail privatisation, seems to have eclipsed the vision of a high-speed rail network which continental countries have embraced with enthusiasm and panache.

There is something far wrong with our parliamentary system when lobbying groups can so easily stifle projects of national importance. Visionary plans do not take shape in a climate which manipulates the democratic process for reasons of local self-interest.

Yours sincerely,
DAVE STEWART,
50 Cranworth Street,
Glasgow G12 8AG.
February 17.

PAC questioning 'tough but polite'

From Mr David Davis, MP for Haltemprice and Howden (Conservative), Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee

Sir, Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea's letter (February 19) may have reflected his traumatic experience before the Defence Select Committee some 20 years ago. It had little in common with Sir John Kerr's experience before the Public Accounts Committee last week (report, February 12).

The committee was questioning Sir John Kerr about the theft of taxpayers' money by a British Embassy employee. As you reported, he expressed deep regret over the matter which, to be fair, happened before his tenure as Permanent Under-Secretary.

Sir John Lea described his questioning as ill-informed. I frankly doubt this for any select committee, but it is certainly not true of the PAC's hearings.

Since every PAC hearing is preceded by a detailed National Audit Office inquiry, the questioning is always informed by a report which is as thorough as anything that I have ever seen in Whitehall.

That is one of the reasons that the PAC has historically been instrumental in exposing any number of problems to the public gaze, in any number of areas, from the NHS to the National Lottery, and from the Pergau Dam to the Skye Bridge.

Sir John Lea clearly felt that he was treated discourteously. I cannot speak for his committee but Sir John Kerr was very properly subjected to some tough, searching and determined questioning. No accounting officer explaining the theft of hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money should expect anything less. But determined questioning need not be discourteous, and I do not believe that it was in this case.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID DAVIS,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee,
House of Commons,
February 19.

Police performance

From the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales

Sir, I enjoyed the on-the-whole sympathetic article by Libby Purves on policing ("A fair cop, Mr Straw", February 10), despite her nostalgic addiction to Dock Green.

Ms Purves is absolutely right to criticise the "tyranny" of performance targets and indicators. As the new Chief Constable of Surrey pointed out (letter, February 7), a police force should be judged on the prevalence of crime in its area rather than on a clear-up rate for reported crime that may bear little relation to realities. The performance indicators, both national and local, seem to be dominated by the measurable rather than the material.

We have great respect for Mr Straw and support the initiatives he is taking against crime, just as we supported the policies of his predecessor. After visiting New York, Mr Straw was enthusiastic about the positive policing he saw there, which has been dubbed, rather unfortunately, "zero tolerance". Now Mr Straw is equally impressed by the more malleable approach towards youth crime in Baltimore.

He might take the point that there has been a massive injection of resources into policing in the United States in recent years which has meant more uniformed officers on the streets and given US forces a chance to make a real difference.

Yours faithfully,
FRED BROUGHTON,
Chairman, Police Federation of England and Wales,
15-17 Langley Road,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6LP.
February 11.

From Mr G. C. Hunter

Sir, I was interested to read Libby Purves's article. Last Sunday, driving to pick up three elderly passengers to take them to church, I saw another elderly member of our congregation waiting to cross the comparatively quiet A25 (9am Sunday traffic). Just at that moment, a police car came along, stopped in the middle of the road, blue lights flashing, and held up the traffic in both directions. The officer got out of the car and helped the lady across the road.

After the service, I asked her if the officer had said anything. "Yes", she said. "He asked me where I was going, and when I said to church, he replied, 'We all need praying for these days.'"

If this is part of community policing, let's have more of it.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. HUNTER,
1 Glebe Road,
Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DS.
February 10.

Tests of what makes a good doctor

From Mr Geoffrey H. Lloyd,

Sir, Professor Stephen Tomlinson, Executive Secretary of the Council of Heads of Medical Schools (letter, February 11) does not, in my view, adequately respond to your report (January 30) on the results of research by Professor Chris McManus and others concerning the relationship between A-level grades, graduation results and performance as an accredited doctor.

Implicit in the report was the recognition that examination performance is by no means the only factor in the making of a good doctor. Professor Tomlinson admits that A levels are not necessarily good predictors of performance in final university examinations, and rightly refers to the benefits emerging from the changes in courses and modes of assessment; but he does not seem to address the need for a real change of emphasis between examination performance and other considerations. These deserve a much higher priority in the selection process.

He mentions the attitudes and values of prospective students. But it is much more than that. It is arguable that, of all professions, those who work in medicine — at all levels and in all specialities — need the best human relations skills of all. General communication skills (both oral and written), empathy and a degree of humility immediately spring to mind. How much emphasis is placed on these qualities *before* students embark on six long years of study?

Your report's conclusion was not unreasonable: in some cases the wrong sort of people do become doctors.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD,
73 High Street, Little Wilbraham,
Cambridge CB1 5JY.
February 12.

From Mr Himansu K. Basu

Sir, The research by Professor McManus and his team quite properly emphasised the importance of medical students' hands-on experience. It recognised that medical students are able to gather facts more readily than undertake deep cognitive analysis. I do not, however, believe that these results are incompatible with the concept of entrants with good A-level passes becoming good doctors.

Undergraduate medical examinations do not result in the production of practising doctors. They merely identify a broadly educated individual who may become a good doctor by acquiring further experience in patient care during the years of post-qualification experience and training needed for independent medical practice.

Yours faithfully,
HIMANSU K. BASU
(Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist),
Glengarry, Woodlands Lane,
Shorne, Kent DA12 3HH.
February 10.

From Dr N. P. Hudd

Sir, The letter from Professor Tomlinson contests the statement in your report that "the wrong sort of people are becoming doctors", yet contains precisely the information that exonerates your stance: "It has long been recognised that A levels are not good predictors of performance in final university examinations."

Why, then, do our medical schools rely almost exclusively on A-level results for selection?

Yours sincerely,
N. P. HUDD,
54 Wimpole Street, W1M 7DF.
February 13.

Churchill and St Paul's

From the Reverend Canon R. J. Halliburton, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral

Sir, Your diarist (February 19) has given a somewhat incomplete account of the proposal to erect a dais for a nave altar under the dome of St Paul's which would cover the brass inlay commemorating Sir Winston Churchill.

In fact, the dais will at first be both temporary and experimental. Should it become permanent, then a worthy memorial to Sir Winston will be created on the dais, exactly over the place where his coffin lay.

Much thought has already been given as to how this might be achieved, for nothing could be farther from the thoughts of the Dean and Chapter than to lose the memorial to the man who sent a telegram to the Lord Mayor of London at the height of the Blitz saying: "At all costs, save St Paul's."

Yours faithfully,
R. J. HALLIBURTON,
Chancellor,
St Paul's Cathedral,
1 Amen Court, EC4M 7BU.
February 19.

Arms control

From Lieutenant-Commander Colin McMillan RN (Retd)

Sir, May I add to the letter from the Archbishop of Liverpool and others on arms control (February 17) my long-held view that the real need is a UN body strictly controlling arms exports.

Anything less in this fragile global village is just further tinkering and, as such, will be music to the ears of arms manufacturers everywhere.

Your obedient servant,
COLIN McMILLAN,
12 Park Avenue, NW11 7SJ.
February 17.

Special needs schools

From the Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Employment

Sir, Your readers may have gained the wrong impression of the proposals in our Green Paper, *Excellence for all Children*, on the education of children with special needs (article, Features, February 17).

While we certainly want to offer parents greater opportunities to place their children in mainstream schools, we are not planning to close all special schools. Indeed, we believe that many special schools can work more closely with mainstream schools and some can become centres of excellence.

Our wider aim is to identify special needs as early as possible, so that effective action can be taken. This will enable some children to live a fuller life than might otherwise be possible.

The Government wants also to improve the assessment system for parents, so that it is less bureaucratic than at present.

I know that many special schools do offer a unique opportunity for children with special needs. We want to build on that expertise — and to offer real choice to parents concerned to get the best education for their children.

Yours sincerely,
ESTELLE MORRIS,
Department for Education and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1P 3BT.
February 17.

Millennium bug

From Mr Adrian Palmer

Sir, If Mr Michael Wilson's washing machine (letter, February 20) thinks it is the year 1900, will it not impose a further restriction and allow him only to do his washing on a Monday?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PALMER,
Prospect House,
Shilling Street, Lavenham,
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9RH.
February 20.

An extra tincture

From Dr J. R. O'Brien

Sir, Dr Edward Wilson, explorer and artist with Captain Scott in the Antarctic, had to sketch his paintings in pencil and take notes of the colours. Returning to the ship or camp — and comparative warmth — he could only then apply his watercolours.

If he had known that watercolours are gin-soluble (letter, February 13), life would have been easier. The freezing point of gin is about -80C, depending on the amount of tonic.

I can just see the pencil outlines on my *Mt Erebus*, which is, typically Wilson, unsigned.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. O'BRIEN,
Glebe Cottage,
Droxford, Hampshire SO32 3PB.

Marked difference

From Mrs Jo Collins

Sir, Shopping at Sainsbury's this week, I bought some Jerusalem artichokes marked: "Was 52p, now 69p". Is this a new development in the supermarket price war?

Yours faithfully,
JO COLLINS,
Crowcombe House, Crowcombe,
Nr Taunton, Somerset TA4 4AE.
February 18.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Dropping a clanger

From Mr Robin Dyke

Sir, I was amazed to read (report, February 18) that English Heritage have insisted that three of the eight bells at St John's, Waterloo, be rehung in an untuned condition. No doubt the restoration of church organs should also be done with discordant intent; and perhaps motorways preserved with traffic cones permanently in place.

The good citizens of Pisa must be grateful that English Heritage has no control over renovation work in their city.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DYKE,
Gore House, Warborough,
Oxfordshire OX10 7DB.
robin_dyke@compuserve.com
February 19.

Home comforts

From Mr John Wolfson

Sir, As a criminal defence solicitor who is on the Manchester duty rota, I will be comforted, when giving advice for £20.75 at three in the morning to a drunk who insists on his right to consult a solicitor, to think of the Lord Chancellor sleeping in one of his £8,000 beds (report, February 17).

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WOLFSON,
Wolfsons Solicitors,
101 Princess Road,
Moss Side, Manchester M14 4RB.
February 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 21: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the Rugby Football Union Match between England and Wales at Twickenham, Middlesex.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 21: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, *accompanied by Captain Timothy* Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the *International Match* between Scotland and France at *Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh,* and was received by Her Majesty's *Lord-Lieutenant of the City of* Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the *Rt Hon the Lord Provost).*

Royal engagement

Prince Edward, as patron, will host a concert by the London Mozart Players, followed by a dinner, in St James's Palace, at 7.00.

School announcement

St Bede's Co-Educational Preparatory School (Eastbourne)
The Governors announce the appointment, in September 1998, of *Mr Christopher Pyemont* as Executive Headmaster of St Bede's. He will succeed his brother, Mr Peter Pyemont, who will become *Principal* of the School.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel Pepys, diarist, London, 1633; John Blow, composer, Newark, baptised this day, 1649; George Frideric Handel, composer, Halle, Germany, 1685; Mayer Amschel Rothschild, banker, Frankfurt, 1734; John Walter II, chief proprietor of *The Times* 1812-47, London, 1776; George Watts, painter, London, 1817; Norman Lindsay, artist and novelist, Creswick, Victoria, 1879; Karl Jaspers, Existentialist philosopher, Oldenburg, Germany, 1883; Victor Fleming, film director, Pasadena, California, 1883; Erich Kastner, writer, Dresden, 1899.

DEATHS: Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1st President of the Royal Academy 1768-92, London, 1792; John Keats, poet, Rome, 1821; John Quincy Adams, 6th American President 1825-29, Washington DC, 1848; Carl Friedrich Gauss, mathematician, Göttingen, 1855; William Butterfield, architect of the Gothic revival, London, 1900; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th American President 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Dame Nellie Melba, soprano, Sydney, New South Wales, 1931; Sir Edward Elgar, Master of the King's Musick 1924-34, Worcester, 1934; Leo Hendrick Baekeland, inventor of Bakelite, Beacon, New York, 1944; Paul Claudel, poet and dramatist, Paris, 1955; Stan Laurel (né Arthur Stanley Jefferson), comedian, Santa Monica, California, 1965; L.S. Lowry, painter, Glossop, Derbyshire, 1976; Herbert Howells, composer, London, 1983; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Farnham, Surrey, 1983.

The Cato Street conspiracy was uncovered, 1820.
Major Walter Winfield patented an outdoor game he called "sphairistike", later known as lawn tennis, 1874.
The Rotary Club was founded in Chicago, 1905.
The February revolution began in Russia, 1917.
The Fascist Party was founded in Italy by Benito Mussolini, 1919.

The first non-stop *Flying Scotsman* leaving King's Cross on May 1, 1928 — one of the photographs in the archive

Railway archive goes on show

BY LYNNE GREENWOOD

MORE than 30,000 photographs of trains, engines and stations by Willie Yeadon, the railway historian and author of 12 volumes of *Yeadon's Register*, the rail enthusiasts' handbook, are to go on show this week at a reception to celebrate his life.

The pictures, all relating to the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) and accompanied by lengthy handwritten notes, were left to the University of Hull by Mr Yeadon, who died last year at the age of 89.

His collection of material, much of it meticulously assembled in albums, also includes handwritten notes and letters by Sir Nigel Gresley, LNER's chief mechanical engineer famous for the introduction of *Flying Scotsman* and *Mallard*.

The material has been catalogued by Brian Dyson, the university's archivist, who said: "This is a unique collection based on detailed research by one man of one railway company. From the early 1930s Mr Yeadon's chief interest was railway history which has resulted in a remarkable publishing output. I cannot imagine it happening again."

Mr Yeadon, an industrial engineer in Hull until his retirement in 1972, became interested in locomotives as a boy when he visited relatives in the Lake District who had an engine shed. Later, he began detailing and photographing every LNER locomotive and amassing any material relating to them.

"In the days of Gresley, every memo was handwritten and, years later, when engineering works in Doncaster and Darlington were being cleared out, Mr Yeadon managed to rescue a great deal of valuable material," Mr Dyson said.

The first volume of *Yeadon's Register of LNER Locomotives* was published in 1990 and early editions now sell on the second-hand market for twice the original price. John Hooper, of Challenger Press, who has edited all 12 volumes, believes that Mr Yeadon left enough material for a further 15 volumes. Volume 13 will be published next month.

"Willie never planned to publish the material initially, but had kept very detailed lists for his own interest. They are all handwritten — the work that has gone into them is incredible," Mr Hooper said. "But the *Register* has now developed a cult following and there is a great rush by enthusiasts when a new volume is published."

Mr Yeadon's widow Annie, 90, and his daughter Jean, who lives in Canada, will attend the reception in the library at Hull University on Wednesday to mark the completion of the catalogue of his lifetime's work.

Yeadon: detailed every LNER locomotive

Nature notes

Rooks are spending more time in their treetop colonies, poking at their old nests and beginning to repair them. Some males are already courting their mates with deep bows. Carrion crows are engaged in similar activities at their solitary nests. Skylarks are now singing regularly over the cornfields: they start singing as soon as they flutter up from the ground, and sometimes rise so high that they are lost in low clouds. Green woodpeckers are giving their spring call, which sounds like mellow laughter. It is used by both the sexes as they start to pair up for the summer. Lapwing flocks are breaking up, and the males are returning to their territories on farmland and moorland, where they call and perform spectacular dives in the sky. On the woodland floor, shiny green bluebell leaves are coming up among the dog's mercury, which has tiny yellow flowers. In ditches, the leaves of cuckoo-pint are opening out: they are shaped like arrowheads and blotched with mauve. The pale purple flowers of winter heliotrope with their vanilla scent can be found in waste places: it is a Mediterranean plant which was brought here to gardens and has successfully naturalised itself. DJM

Green woodpecker

Marriages

Mr C.S.N. Crookenden and Miss M.L. Ott
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 21, at St Bartholomew's, Park Avenue, New York City, of Mr Charles Crookenden, second son of Lieutenant General Sir Napier and the Hon Lady Crookenden, of Four Elms, Kent, to Miss Michelle Lynn Ott, daughter of Mr Joseph Ott and Mrs Diane Lucas Ott, of Pittsburgh, USA. Mr James Wellesley Wesley was best man.
A reception was held at the Union Club in New York and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr S. Foster and Miss G. Burton
The marriage took place in Henley, on Saturday, February 21, between Mr Stephen Foster and Miss Grace Burton.

Mr M.E. Hammond and Miss A.K. Kretschmann
The marriage took place on Friday, February 20, at Chelsea Register Office, between Michael Edmund Hammond, of Chelsea, and Ann Katrin Kretschmann, of Knightsbridge.

Latest wills

Viscount Tonypandy, Speaker of the House of Commons 1976-83, of Cardiff, left estate valued at £233,225 net.
He left £10,000 to Tonypandy Comprehensive School, £2,000 to the Parish of St Margarets Church, Westminster, £1,000 each to NCH Action for Children, Methodist Church of Central Buildings, Oldham St, Manchester, Lorrets School, Musselburgh, Edinburgh, and the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Llandaff, plus shares in his residuary estate to the George Thomas Memorial Trust, of Penylan, Cardiff, and The Friends of the Ysbyty George Thomas, of Treorchy, Rhondda; to Lord Murton of Lindisfarne his signet ring which he treasured because it had been in the family of Lord Murton's first wife for more than 200 years and was given to him as a good luck token when he became Speaker of the House of Commons; to the National Library of Wales his personal papers; to Sir Iolfan Hodge the miner's lamp presented to him by the South Wales Area of the National Coal Board; to Sir Patrick Cormack, MP, the silver salver presented to him on his 70th birthday by the Parliamentary Christian Breakfast Group; to Cardiff Castle George Thomas Suite all his royal Christmas cards and framed Christmas cards from various heads of states and prime ministers.

General Sir John Winthrop Hackett, Principal, King's College London, 1968-75, Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, and Commander, Northern Army Group in Nato, 1966-8, of Coberley, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £205,184 net.

Joseph Caplan, of Liverpool, left estate valued at £1,109,840 net.
He left £5,000 to Allerton Synagogue, Liverpool, and £40,000 to the Stanley Jewish Residential Care and Nursing Home, Liverpool, and £250 to each senior employed in the hospital wing and £10 to each nurse.

Evelyn Jeanette Seeley, of London, SW10, left estate valued at £1,801,019 net.
She left £500 each to Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Not Forgotten Association, Salvation Army and Barnardos.

Medal

Mr William H. Walsh has been presented with the Sir Misha Black Medal for Distinguished Services to Design Education.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Austin and Miss S. Ord
Both families are pleased to announce the engagement of Robert Austin and Suzanne Ord, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Dr S.R. Baguley and Miss C.I. Wickham
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Peter Baguley, of Bernkastel-Kues, Germany, and Mrs Irene Tinning, of Altrincham, Cheshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Wickham, of Heath, Cardiff.

Mr M.C.L. Barnett and Miss J.E. Eadie
The engagement is announced between Marcus, younger son of His Honour Judge Christopher Barnett, QC, and Mrs Barnett, of Fordham, Essex, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Eadie, of Stoughton, West Sussex.

Dr S.C. Edwards and Miss Z.E.C. Balchin
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ian Edwards, of Eassie, Angus, and Zoë, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Balchin, of West Chiltington, West Sussex.

Mr N.J. Lenham and Miss P.R. Pyemont
The engagement is announced between Neil, only son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Lenham, of Lancing, and Petronella, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Pyemont, of Eastbourne.

Mr G.K. Palm and Miss S.R. Rollo
The engagement is announced between Gregory, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Palm, and Susan, daughter of Mr Andrew Rollo and the late Mrs Rollo.

Mr N.F.C. Sinclair and Miss M.A. White
The engagement is announced between Neil Sinclair, of West Runton, Norfolk, and Mavis-Anne White, of The Manor House, North Walsham, Norfolk.

Birthdays today

Mr Bill Alexander, theatre director, 50; the Duke of Beaufort, 70; Miss Pam Blundell, fashion designer, 31; Mr Jeremy P. Brooks, chairman, Price Waterhouse Europe, 59; Lady Digby, 74; Lord Ezra, 79; Mr Frank Gerstenberg, Principal, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 57; Mr Nicholas Kenyon, Controller, BBC Radio 3, 47; Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College, 56; the Earl of Lincoln, 85; Mr Anton Mosimann, chef, 51; Lord St Levan, 79; Mr Colin Sanders, founder, Solid State Logic, 56; Miss Helena Sukova, tennis player, 33; Lord Tugendhat, 61; Mr David Ward, former President, Law Society, 61.

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We are being done to death for your sake all day long', as scripture says, 'we have been treated like sheep for slaughter and yet, throughout it all, overwhelming victory is ours through him who loved us. Romans 8 : 36

BIRTHS

BONDONNEAU - On February 14th at The Portland Hospital to Caroline (née Maitland-Robinson) and Guy, God's gift of a much wanted beautiful son, Somerset Elliot Maitland. A brother for Fabienne Saskia and a first grandson for the late Monsieur Henry Bondonneau and Madame Margit Bondonneau of Paris.

JONES - On 10th February 1998 to Elizabeth (née Goodman) and David, a boy, Michael Timothy Herbert.

MAITLAND-ROBINSON - See Bondonneau.

McNEILL - On February 20th 1998, to Anne (née Sparling) and Martin, a daughter, Ellen Margaret Anne, a sister for David.

NEVE - On February 12th, to Sue and Steve, a daughter, Emily Catharine. Thanks to all for best wishes and help, particularly to Liz Penny.

SWYCHER - In London to Sally (née Farmer) and Nigel Swycher, a son, Matthew John, a brother for Emma Scott and Adam Thomas.

DEATHS

CAROLIN - On Thursday February 19th 1998 Jean, dear wife of the late Joe and mother of Peter and Diana. Funeral Service St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Granville Road, Sevenoaks, Kent at 2.30 pm on Friday February 27th 1998. Family flowers only but if so desired donations to Hospice in the Weald, Allen Gardiner House, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3QU.

DIXON - Diane Maitland on February 19th peacefully at the Evelyn Hospital Cambridge. Much loved widow of Michael. Mother of Claudia and Carvollanne, grandmother of Liane, Jane and Christopher. Cremation at Cambridge City Crematorium, East Chapel on Friday 27th February at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, if desired donations made payable to the Stroke Association may be sent to Dennis Easton Funeral Service, The Lodge, Broad Leas, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.

EVANS - Col. James Ellis CBE, TD, JP, on February 19th 1998 peacefully in hospital and of Trafford Mount, Cambrian Drive, Prestatyn. Former Lord Lieutenant of the County of Clwyd. A private funeral service will be held on Thursday 26th February at St Mary's Church, Meliden at 11.30 am followed by interment in the churchyard. A Memorial Service will be held at St Asaph Cathedral at a later date. Donations if so desired to The Royal British Legion (Prestatyn Branch). Donations and further enquiries to Peter Roberts & Son, Pendre Square, Prestatyn, tel: (01745) 857888.

GALLIERS-PRATT - Anthony Malcolm CBE on 20th February after a long battle against cancer. Dearly beloved husband of Angela and father of Rupert, Nigel and Anthony. Funeral Service to take place on Thursday 26th February at St Mary The Virgin, Cleobury Mortimer at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, Beaumont Street, London W1N 2AA.

GEDDES - Sir Reay Geddes KBE aged 85 peacefully on Thursday 19th February 1998 at King Edward VII Hospital, London. Beloved father and grandfather. Private funeral service for immediate family. Family flowers only. Donations to Abbeyfield International, Abbeyfield House, 53 Victoria Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3UW. Thanksgiving Service at St Columba's, Pont Street, London SW1 at 5 pm on Thursday 19th March 1998 - all welcome. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon (0171) 834-4624.

GREEVE - Mary Margaret O.B.E. On 19th February in her 92nd year, after a long illness, bravely borne. For 21 years Editor of Woman Magazine. Funeral at St Peter's Church Berkhamsted on Friday 27th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Cecil Houses c/o Malcolm Jones & Metcalfe, 284 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1AH. Tel: (01442) 864848.

HARRIS - Geoffrey peacefully in hospital on 18th February 1998. Beloved husband of Eve, much loved father of Sue and Rosemary and dear Grandpa to Edward and Vikki. Service of Thanksgiving Tuesday 3rd March at 2 pm All Saints Church, Marlow. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Mental Health Foundation c/o Sawyers, 32 West Street, Marlow, SL7 2NB.

LESTON - Diane Elizabeth on 17th February at home after a short illness. Cremation service on Wednesday 25th February 3.15 pm at the West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, W10. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon tel: (0171) 229-3810.

MARSHALL - John on February 18th peacefully after a short illness. A man of grace and courage, beloved husband of Kathie and devoted father Jean, Annett, Beatrice, Christian, Katharine and grandchildren Nicola and Christopher John. The funeral will take place at Hornbeak Church, Denmark on Saturday 28th February at noon.

MEYRICK - (née Coombe) February 20th 1998, peacefully at home after a long illness, Barbara, beloved wife of Roger, mother to Olivia, Daryl, Clare and Hugh, grandmother to Emma, Sarah, James, Joseph, Samuel, Jacob, Edward, Tristan, Dominic and Charlotte in whom she delighted. Funeral at St. Peter's Church, Peter Tavy, Tavistock, Devon on Thursday 26th February 1998 at 2.00pm. Flowers, or donations to Age Concern or Save the Children c/o Morris Brothers (Tavistock) Ltd, Funeral Directors, 1 Drake Road, Tavistock, Devon.

MOFFAT - Unexpectedly, early on Wednesday, 18th February, 1998, James (Jim) Johnstone Moffat of a heart attack. Dearly loved son of Noreen and the late William Moffat, devoted father and friend of Andrew and Lorna, dearest and best husband of Marion, much loved brother of Elizabeth. We miss you and your humour. Funeral at 3.30 pm, Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, Tuesday 24th February, 1998.

PARKER - On February 19th 1998 peacefully in her sleep, Margaret Louise (Peggy) aged 93 years. Much loved mother and grandmother. Requiem Mass at St Dunstans Catholic Church Woking on Thursday February 26th at 10 am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to 'Motor Neurone Disease Association' c/o Woking Funeral Service, 119-121 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 1LR.

PHILLIPS - John Francis, QC CBE, in the Wellington Hospital on 19th February, aged 86. Beloved husband of Olive, dear father of Christine, Roland and Diana, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service at St. Andrew's Whitehall Park N19, at 11.00am on Friday 27th February, and then at Golders Green Crematorium.

RUSSELL-JONES - Peggy, peacefully in hospital on February 19th. Beloved wife of the late Peter, much loved mother of John, Sue and David and sister of Barbara. Adored grandmother of James, Polly, Henrietta, Clementine, Pandora, Emma, Charlie and Freddie. Funeral at Christ Church, Radyr, Cardiff on Thursday February 26th at 11:45am followed by cremation at Thornhill Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to James Summers & Son, Roath Court, Newport Road, Cardiff.

SEABROOK - Suddenly on February 18th in Norwich, Mike aged 47 years. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 01603 760787.

THOMPSON - Miss Christine Thompson CBE RRC OSJ Former Matron in Chief QARNNS, peacefully at her home in Horsforth, Leeds on February 18th, aged 79 years. A much loved sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt. The funeral service will take place at The Grove Methodist Church, Town Street, Horsforth on Friday February 27th at 3 pm. Family flowers only by request, but donations in lieu, if so desired to The British Red Cross c/o Worsnald's Funeral Services, The Chapel of Rest, New Street, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BH tel: 0113-2565209.

WELCH - Colin Mary on Thursday 19th February 1998, N. much loved wife of Pearl, mother of Hugo, James, Jonathan, Thomas and Michael and beloved sister of David. Peacefully at home in her sleep. Funeral Service at St Peters R.C. Church Marlow on Thursday 26th February 1998 at 12 noon, followed by private family burial. Flowers or donations if desired to either Marie Curie Cancer Care or Cancer Research Fund c/o Arnold Funeral Service 01494 472572.

WISKAR - Frank Neal. At home on February 19th, aged 75. After fighting a long illness with great courage, good humour and dignity. Very much loved husband of Joan, darling daddy to Sally. Inspiring grandpa to Jenny and Julian. Stepfather to Christine and stepgrandpa Frank to Lucas, Rebecca and Olivia. His joy for life he leaves behind. Service and committal at Colwyn Bay Crematorium on Thursday 26th February at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research and St Davids Hospice. Enquiries c/o Scott Owen, Tom Owen & Son Funeral Directors, 11 Bodlyfryd Road, Llandudno, 01492-860280.

WORTH - Eileen of Kensington. Died 18th February peacefully at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Cremation at East Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium at 12:15pm on Thursday 26th February. No flowers by her special request.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SANDERS - Colin Sanders C.B.E. A Memorial Service will be held in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford on Thursday March 12th, 1998 at 2.30pm. Enquiries to R.V. Mallett 01865 744500.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HERSEY - Peter. Treasured memories of my dearest Peter who died 23/2/84.

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OBITUARIES

HOGAN BASSEY

Hogan "Kid" Bassey, MBE, world featherweight boxing champion, 1957-59, died in Lagos on January 26 aged 65. He was born on June 3, 1932.

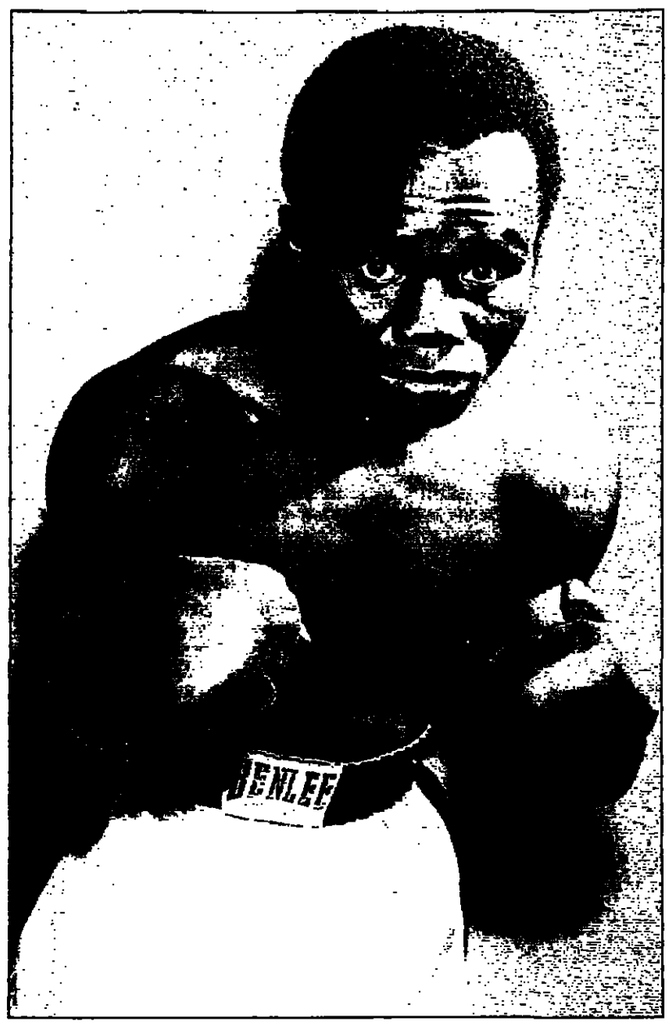
A skilful boxer with tremendous punching power in both hands, Hogan Bassey was Nigeria's first world boxing champion and only the second to emerge from Africa since Senegal's battling Siki in the 1920s. On the way to his world crown he held the British Empire title for two years, fighting out of Liverpool after having run out of opposition in Africa. Indeed, so closely did he become identified with Merseyside that when he eventually won world honours, some sections of the British Press seemed to have forgotten that he was Nigerian, and saw it as a fillip for British boxing.

He was born Okon Bassey Asuquo, one of a family of five, in Calabar, southern Nigeria. At secondary school in Lagos he showed an aptitude for all sports, with his wiry physique and natural muscle speed. But boxing was his métier and he soon became captain of the school team.

In 1949, while still at school, he turned professional and, among other contests, fought two notable non-title bouts against the British champion Dick Turpin, elder brother of Randolph. He beat Turpin on points on the first occasion and lost to him on a foul in the second. Although the results were a significant pointer to Bassey's quality, given that he was only 17 and Turpin was a seasoned campaigner, both bouts were in Lagos and so did not garner the publicity they might otherwise have done.

Nevertheless, in the following year he knocked out Joe Bennetts over ten rounds in Lagos, to take the Nigerian bantamweight title, which he defended four times in the course of 1951. At the end of the year he beat Young Spider Neequauo over 12 rounds to take the West African title. Then, in 1952, by which time it was obvious that there was no further opposition for him in that region of Africa, he came to England, basing himself in Liverpool.

He soon made an impact, reeling off a string of victories at venues in the North West of England in a campaign to make himself a contender for the British Empire title. At last, in November 1955, he got his chance against Billy "Spider" Kelly in Belfast. Kelly, who was also British champion, had previously inflicted on Bassey one of his rare defeats, in London at the end of 1953. But this time he was no match for the by now vastly more experienced



Bassey, who knocked him out towards the end of eight torrid rounds with what one reporter described as "the most dynamic title-winning wallop I ever saw".

Bassey's work rate would be inconceivable for title contenders today: in 1952, for example, he fought 18 times. The statistics of his wins against British, European and North American opposition eventually made it impossible to overlook his credentials. On April 1, 1957, he defended his Empire title decisively against the talented Trinidadian Percy Lewis at Nottingham. At the end of the same month he went to Washington to take on the tough Puerto Rican, Miguel Berrios, getting up off the floor in the tenth round to win on points over 12 rounds.

This result, in front of an American audience which has always admired guts and is far from regarding being knocked down as a disgrace, made his claims for a tilt at the world title irresistible. The French Algerian Cherif Hamia was the other leading contender for the world title, vacant at that moment, and Bassey met the European champion in Paris on June 24, 1956.

Both men had courage, skill, stamina and fast hands. But an informed Paris ringside crowd did not expect their man to lose. He had Bassey down in the second round when the British Empire champion ran onto a pile-driving right hand. Rising at the count of seven, Bassey saw out the round and then returned to the attack himself. Thereafter, for round after round, it was a cultivated exchange of nevertheless severe punishment. At the end, with Bassey raining in punches from all angles, the Algerian succumbed, and in round ten the referee stepped in to save him from further dangerous punishment.

Suddenly the Nigerian was a "British" world champion, and, for being its first such victor since Randolph Turpin, his adoptive country made sure he was appointed MBE in the next New Year Honours. In October that year Bassey relinquished his Commonwealth title to concentrate on his world crown defences. In 1958 he went to America again, and on April 1 he disposed of the Mexican challenger Ricardo Moreno in three rounds in Los Angeles. The great Willie Pep, who had been world featherweight champion, 1942-50, but who was by then well past his best, was another victim that year, knocked out in nine rounds in Boston in September.

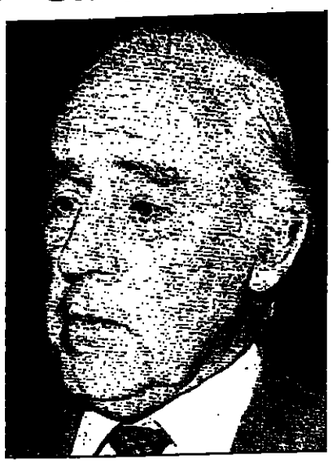
However, the immensely talented American Davey Moore was the next challenger waiting in the wings for Bassey, and their clash in Los Angeles in March 1959 was Bassey's most bruising encounter to that date. After a fierce non-stop trading of blows which lasted for 13 rounds, Moore proved the stronger and Bassey was forced to retire and yield his title. Five months later he returned to Los Angeles, but Moore marginally improved on his previous performance, stopping Bassey in 11 rounds.

Having proved to himself that he had passed his peak, Bassey had the sense to retire. Returning to Nigeria, he became closely involved with his country's amateur boxing scene, and as national coach he took the Nigerian team to the Moscow Olympic Games of 1980. He also wrote an instructional book, *Hogan on Boxing*.

Hogan Bassey was twice married, first to Maria Williams and secondly to Mary Magdalene. There were eight children of the two marriages.

SIR DAVID CROUCH

Sir David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury, 1966-87, died on February 18 aged 78. He was born on June 22, 1919.



THOUGH he was one of the Commons' busiest backbenchers, Sir David Crouch never lived for politics alone. Painting and the theatre were his other great loves. When he was demobilised after the war, he thought seriously of going on the stage, but he was rejected by a theatrical agent because his hair was grey at 26. Dennis Skinner called him the Wilfred Hyde White of the Commons. Crouch had a grave, almost sententious speaking style, but he did not take himself as seriously as this might suggest. Looking back at his earlier ambition he described an MP as "an actor who writes his own scripts".

Crouch's scripts were those of a courageous, civilised, left-wing Tory who never hesitated to express his own beliefs however much they departed from the party line. He was pro-European from the start of his political career, and at one point not far from espousing federalism. He supported the Kent miners during the 1973 strike because he thought they had a good case. He was a dedicated supporter of Edward Heath, though he realised earlier than most that there had to be a change of leadership. In Margaret Thatcher's eyes he was an unreconstructed wet, but he was broadminded enough to admire many of her achievements.

He came from a Hampstead family. His father was a prosperous shipping agent, and Crouch went naturally to the nearby University College School, which he left at 18 to enter the textile industry as a Courtaulds trainee. In 1938 he joined the Territorial Army in the ranks of the City of London Yeomanry, and soon after war broke out he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. He commanded a battery in Normandy and served later as a staff officer in India and Burma.

He came back as a major and returned to textiles, becoming area manager of British Nylon Spinners; publicity manager of ICI Fibres; and publicity director of the International Wool Secretariat. In 1964 he started his own successful public relations and marketing consultants company. He also served as a director of a number of pharmaceutical and public relations companies.

He was attracted to Macmillan's middle-way Conservatism, and in 1959 he fought the traditionally hopeless seat of Leeds West. Though he put up a good fight, he then had difficulty finding a winnable seat, being rejected in turn by East Grinstead, Guildford and Portsmouth South. But as the 1966 election approached, he was chosen for Canterbury, a safe Tory seat where he regularly increased the majority.

In the House, as a natural member of the Tory Reform Group, he soon revealed his sympathies, attacking South Africa for its treatment of the cricketer Basil D'Oliveira, asking for more aid for underdeveloped countries and urging entry into the EEC. As the 1973-74 industrial crisis loomed, he urged the One Nation line against all-out confrontation, only to watch with dismay as his long-term friend Edward Heath lost the election. In later years he concentrated on Middle Eastern affairs — he was a prominent Arab supporter — and on working behind the scenes in the Commons.

The list of his offices was impressive. He was chairman of the British-Egyptian Parliamentary Group, the British-Algerian Group, the all-party group for the chemical industry, the all-party group for energy studies, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Speaker's Advisory Committee on the Arts. He was a member of the Select Committee for Nationalised Industries, the Public Accounts Committee, the Speaker's Panel, and the Select Committee for Social Service.

Yet he kept up his many interests outside Parliament. Prominent, naturally, was the theatre, which owed much to his founding and chairmanship of the Theatres' Trust, responsible for keeping open theatres all over Britain. As a constituency MP he was an enthusiast for the Channel Tunnel project, though sometimes sceptical about its implementation. He was dedicated to keeping juggernauts off the roads of Kent as much as possible. As a watercolourist he took his easel and brushes on his many overseas visits, and every year an exhibition of his work was held in the Palace of Westminster. After he left the Commons he raised money for hospitals, particularly the Great Ormond Street Hospital. He also fought a long battle against closing any of the facilities of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

He was married in 1947 to Margaret Maplesden, also an artist, who survives him with their son and daughter.

HIS HONOUR PETER FAULKS

Peter Faulks, MC, a Circuit Judge from 1980 to 1990, died on February 15 aged 80. He was born on December 24, 1917.

PETER FAULKS won the MC during the First Army's Advance on Tunis in 1943, and survived being shot through the head at Anzio to go on to fight in the Middle East. After the war he was one of the first solicitors appointed to the Circuit Bench.

He had just come down from Cambridge when war broke out, and he was commissioned into the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. In March 1940, they were sent to Belgium and in May they were ordered to cover the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk. They marched a hundred miles in three days, and Faulks used to say he remembered nothing of the return to England until he found himself dancing with Miss Swanage, 1940, in her home town.

The battalion was sent to North Africa in March 1943. On the night of April 20-21, Faulks, now a captain commanding D Company, was required to hold the extreme edge of a hill known to the troops as Banana Ridge, about a mile from Medjez-el-Bab. They at once lost radio contact with Battalion HQ and were attacked from the rear and flanks by superior numbers of the Hermann Goering Parachute Division. Under what his commanding officer called "Faulks's inspiring leadership and personal gallantry", they held out till dawn, despite the added attentions of the Royal Artillery, who believed D Company had been overcome.

On the contrary, they attacked the Germans' position in a mosque at first light and routed them. They took 21 prisoners,

inflicted 21 casualties, and secured the vital eastern end of the attack. This was achieved at a cost of one Dukes casualty, and Faulks was recommended for an immediate MC. Though he was a gentle, peace-loving man, the pressure of war made him a formidable soldier, scornful of anyone less committed to the cause. His commanding officer remarked to the other company commanders that he "looks like a poet but he's all right".

In July 1943 Faulks was among the first Allied soldiers to set foot in Nazi Europe, in the invasion of Pantelleria, near Sicily. This was expected to be a tough assignment and the island was heavily bombarded. At the last minute the landing craft were swung round in the bay, so the fighting troops had to clamber over the cooks and drivers. They found the welcoming Italians packed up and ready to go.

In February 1944 the Dukes landed at Anzio, and Faulks was involved in the fierce fighting on the beachhead. D Company reached Campoleone Station and Faulks resisted his new commanding officer's order that he should now rest. Reluctantly, he obeyed the repeated order, and while he was at Battalion HQ his beloved D Company was overrun.

While issuing orders in a trench, Faulks was shot in the head. In the dressing station he heard his sergeant say: "I've got the major here. He's a gonner." The Germans shelled the station and Faulks was further wounded in the shoulder. He recovered in Sorrento, where through his window he watched Mount Vesuvius erupting on the other side of the bay. By April he was back on the beachhead, fighting in slit trenches in warfare as grim as that of the Western Front.

On May 23 the Allies broke out for Rome, and the Dukes' regimental history shows the American General Mark Clark taking a slightly poetic salute from Faulks at the head of C Company. By May they had reached Florence, where the Germans had destroyed all the bridges. Faulks, among others, waded across the Arno.

He passed the remainder of the war in the Middle East. In Syria he had to disarm the native soldiers in a fort in Dmeir after they had rebelled against their French officers. He summed up his wisdom as an infantry officer: "One, the radio will break down in the first minute. Two, if when instructing the men you allow them to smoke, they will follow you anywhere."

Peter Ronald Faulks was brought up in Sydenham, the youngest of four children. He attended Tonbridge School and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read law. After the war he qualified as a solicitor and was for 20 years senior partner of Pitman & Bazett in Newbury.

He captained Kent Prep Schools at cricket in 1930 and was captain of Newbury in the 1950s, where he was a powerful middle-order batsman and useful medium-pacer.

Having proved himself as a Recorder in the 1970s, Faulks was an obvious choice when the Lord Chancellor was looking for solicitors to become judges. His elder brother, Neville, was a High Court judge who had been a distinguished silk and chaired the Committee on Defamation in 1975.

Peter Faulks was appointed in 1980 and sat in London and Reading, where he heard criminal cases. Experienced criminals did not relish appearing in front of him. They knew that they would have a courteous, full and fair hearing, at the end of which they would get exactly what was coming to them. Faulks endeared himself to counsel and court staff by his humour and his lack of pomposity.

He was a modest and genial man, formidably well read and able to dispose of *The Times* crossword daily in about ten minutes. He cultivated exquisite vegetables, and when not working enjoyed every product of the grape and grain except rum.

Above all else, Peter Faulks was a family man, who sought no happiness greater than the company of his wife. In 1949, he married Pamela Lawless, daughter of Peter Lawless, a *Daily Telegraph* correspondent killed while reporting the American advance into Germany in 1945. She and their two sons — Edward, a QC, and Sebastian, the author and journalist — survive him.

WALTER BISHOP JR

Walter Bishop Jr, jazz pianist, died in New York on January 24 aged 70. He was born on October 4, 1927.

THE fluent, dramatic and sometimes surprising playing on Walter Bishop Jr's discs *What's New* and *Midnight Blue* from the early 1990s shows a jazz pianist at the height of his powers. Bishop developed the technical innovations of 1940s bebop pioneers such as Bud Powell into a strong personal language which made him one of the most immediately identifiable of modern jazz musicians.

His talent and individuality were apparent from his early twenties, when he played alongside Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and Art Blakey, and he influenced generations of younger players, both through his recordings and his teaching on the West Coast and at the University of Hartford, Connecticut. That he should have fulfilled his early promise so effectively is all the more remarkable because of his lengthy battle with heroin addiction in the 1950s.

Walter Bishop Jr was the son of a well-known songwriter of West Indian origin, who had become famous in New York jazz circles for his compositions. Through his father, Bishop got to know many influential jazz pianists in New York, including Art Tatum, but the most direct inspiration for his own playing came from the new generation of bebop musicians headed by Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell. Bishop sat in, audaciously, with Charlie Parker while still a teenager, and worked hard to attain a standard that would allow him to play regularly at such a high level. His efforts were rewarded in 1947, when he joined Art Blakey's band and appeared on the first discs cut under Blakey's own name.

By 1950, Bishop was one of a small group of pianists who were regularly called on to play in Miles Davis's band, with which he broadcast and recorded that year during Davis's summer residency at New York's Birdland club. Davis was Bishop's entrée to regular work with Charlie Parker, and all three appeared on Parker's 1951 disc *Star Eyes*.

For the next couple of years, Bishop was featured regularly in bands with Davis and Parker, although he knew that by the early 1950s Parker's drug addiction meant that he was past his prime. Drugs became a way of life for bebop musicians in the circle of Parker and Davis, and Bishop was no exception. However, unlike many pioneers of modern jazz, Bishop — in common with his fellow members of Davis's band, the saxophonists Sonny Rollins and Jackie McLean — threw off his addiction and recovered. Initially he worked outside music to restore his health and confidence, but in due course he resumed regular playing and followed McLean into the twin roles of active performer and academic.

During the 1960s, he played for a living with Curtis Fuller, Cannonball Adderley and his own trio, recording his debut album as a leader in 1961. Meanwhile, he undertook a rigorous course of study covering composition and arranging, under the guidance of classical composers such as Hall Overton (who had trained a generation of jazz arrangers) and jazzmen such as Lyle "Spud" Murphy. His own resulting compositions included *Coral Keys* for Freddie Hubbard and *Waltz for Sweetie*, recorded by Joe Henderson. He also produced a jazz textbook, *A Study in 4th*, in 1976.

Bishop lived on the West Coast during the 1970s, undertaking lecture tours with his aptly named band Fourth Cycle (a cryptic reference to the harmonic ideas in his textbook), before returning to the East and his university job at Hartford in the 1980s. His later playing career ranged from work as a sideman to solo recitals. For the last three decades he also recorded regularly with his own group. His playing continued to mature and develop, and his recent discs were as good as anything he produced in a long and varied career.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev John Atkinson, Team Rector, Bride Valley (Salisbury): to be Rural Dean of Lyme Bay (same diocese).

The Rev Nigel Bourne, Curate, Newport St John the Baptist (Portsmouth): to be Vicar, Chalk (Rochester).

The Rev Alan Comfort, Assistant Curate, Buckhurst Hill St Stephen and St Elisabeth (Chelmsford): to be Team Vicar, same benefice.

Canon Richard Cooper, Vicar, Aldborough w Boroughbridge and Roecliffe (Ripon): to be Rector, Richmond w Hudswell (same diocese).

The Rev Prof Peter Curzon, NSM, Bemerton (Salisbury): to be NSM, Lower Wylye and Till Valley Team (same diocese).

The Rev Christopher Ellis, Diocesan Ecumenical Adviser (York): to be Priest-in-Charge, Bulmer w Dalby, Terrington and Welburn (same diocese).

The Rev Alan Jeans, Priest-in-Charge, Bishop's Cannings, All Cannings and Etchilhampton (Salisbury): to be Adviser for Parish Development (Salisbury).

The Rev Andrew Jowitt, Assistant Curate, Barking St Margaret and St Patrick (Chelmsford): to be Team Vicar, same benefice with special responsibility for Barking St Patrick (same diocese).

The Rev Bob Lewis, Priest-in-Charge, Danby (York): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Trevor Maines, Vicar, Goldington (St Albans): to be also Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford (same diocese).

The Rev Peter McGeary, Vicar, Hayes St Anselm (London): to be Vicar, St George-in-the-East St Mary (same diocese).

The Rev David Milner, Priest-in-Charge, Daybrook St Paul (Southwell): to be Curate (Associate Priest), West Bridgford St Giles and St Luke (same diocese).

The Rev Barry Morrison, Vicar, West Hampstead St Luke (London): to be Rector, Rushden St Mary and Rushden St Peter w Newton Bromswold (Peterborough).

The Rev Michael Parker, Rector, Bedford St John the Baptist and St Leonard (St Albans): to be Vicar, Knowle St John the Baptist, St Lawrence and St Anne (Birmingham).

The Rev John Parsons, Priest-in-Charge, Barking St Margaret and St Patrick (Chelmsford): to be Team Rector, same benefice.

The Rev Stuart Robinson, from the diocese of Sydney, Australia: to be Chaplain, Tervuren St Paul, Belgium (Europe).

The Rev Richard Rowling, Priest-in-Charge, Ingleby Greenhow w Bilsdale Priory, Kildale and Westerdale (York): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Ian Scott, Assistant Curate, Cropthorne w Charlton (Worcester): to be Assistant Chaplain, University Hospital NHS Trust (Birmingham).

The Rev Pauline Smith, Priest-in-Charge, and Team Vicar Designate, Lower Wylye and Till Valley Team (Salisbury): to be Team Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Richard Taylor, Team Rector, The Benwell Team (Newcastle): to be Priest-in-Charge, Blyth St Cuthbert (same diocese).

The Rev Bryan Thomas, Rector, Yarnbury, and Team Rector designate, Lower Wylye and Till Valley Team (Salisbury): to be Team Rector, Lower Wylye and Till Valley Team (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Kenneth Almond, Vicar, Spalding St John the Baptist w Deeping St Nicholas (Lincoln) to retire February 28.

The Rev John Baker, Assistant Curate, Greenford (London) retired December 31, 1997.

The Rev Daniel Chanda, Curate, Small Heath (Birmingham) to retire March 31.

Canon Kenneth Court, Team Rector, The Syston Team Ministry (Leicester) to retire March 31.

Canon John Farrant, Chaplain, Madeira Holy Trinity (Europe) retired January 31.

The Rev Ivor Nicklin, Vicar, Basford (Lichfield) retired February 22.

THE CASE OF J. C. RHODES.

LETTER FROM LORD DURHAM.

(From Our Racing Correspondent.)

Lord Durham, a prominent member of the Jockey Club, of which he has been Senior Steward, has written the letter given below in reference to the case of the jockey J. C. Rhodes, a nephew of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes. J. C. Rhodes, who was educated at Eton, desired to become a jockey, and while a premium apprentice with Pickering, the Newmarket trainer, rode Grave Fairy in a race in Ireland. In the race she started a pronounced favourite and was beaten. An inquiry was held into her running, as the result of which Rhodes lost his licence as a jockey in Ireland. The Jockey Club in this country, acting thereupon, withdrew Rhodes's licence to ride in England.

Mr. George Lambton has been trying to get the Jockey Club to reopen the case with a view to a reinstatement of Rhodes's licence. Those people who know Rhodes cannot believe that he did anything wrong, although he may have ridden an indifferent race. His one ambition in life — for which he would have given all that he had — was to ride a winner.

Lord Durham, who is staying at Vernet-les-Bains, has always been a fearless Steward and a member of the Jockey Club who was never afraid to say or write exactly what he thought was right. His letter is given below:

At this distance from England I am not in touch with the latest comments on this case, but it appears to me that owners, trainers, and jockeys are rather apathetic about it and fail to realize the principles at stake. I ignore the proceedings of the Irish Stewards, except to remark that the English Jockey Club is not subordinate or subservient to the Turf Club of Ireland. What causes me misgivings is the action of the English Stewards in twice refusing to grant a hearing to a man from whom they have, in the most public manner, withdrawn a licence to ride in England. Their belief or excuse is, in Mr. Weatherby's words, that the Stewards of the Jockey Club could not possibly take the matter up unless they were asked to do so by the Turf Club Stewards. When have they discovered this mare's nest? I am an old member of the Rules Committee of the Jockey Club, and I assert with confidence that there is not one rule of racing which justifies their contention. If they are correct in their views, it follows that English jockeys riding abroad are at the mercy of foreign clubs as to the retention of their English licences to ride. I will not labour the point in a letter. There is temptation to remind our Stewards that the British Empire was built up by men who did not include the word "impossible" in their vocabulary. It should never be impossible for a body of men to try to remedy an injustice or to redress a grievance caused by the misinterpretation of their own laws.

ON THIS DAY

February 23, 1925

J. C. Rhodes, a nephew of Cecil Rhodes, rode a favourite in Ireland while a premium apprentice to a Newmarket trainer. The horse failed to win and, after an inquiry, Rhodes lost his Irish licence. The Jockey Club followed suit

£200 FOR ESSAY ON SOCIALISM.

Lord Astor is offering a prize of £200 to the writer of an essay, not exceeding 2,500 words, setting forth, in simple and convincing language, the fallacies and dangers of Socialism. The main object of the essay is to make available in popular form the technical knowledge and experience which condemns the Socialist creed. To prove effective, the essay should contain a fair statement of the case usually advanced by Socialists, and the answer thereto. It should, further, aim at showing the disastrous effect which the adoption of the proposals urged by the Socialist Party would have on the Empire, the nation, and the individual citizen. The competition will be open to all of British nationality. The essays will be judged by a committee of three, one of whom will be nominated by Lord Astor, another by the Unionist Central Office, the third being an expert economist.

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS

UN chief strikes deal with Saddam

■ A breakthrough deal to avert war in the Gulf is expected to be announced in Baghdad today after talks between President Saddam Hussein and Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General.

The details of any agreement will not be announced, however, until Mr Annan has reported to the Security Council tomorrow. Washington and London remained cautious and there was no let-up in the military preparations for airstrikes ..... Pages 1, 12, 13, 20

Mandelson unveils 'Baby Dome' project

■ A "baby dome" seating 6,000 people and designed for live performances is to be erected next to the Millennium Dome at Greenwich. Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who is in chare of the Dome project, announced the plan in a television interview ..... Page 1

Ban on media

The Government is to introduce legislation to end "chequebook journalism", such as the payments made to witnesses in the trial of Rosemary West, the Cromwell St murderer ..... Page 1

Air cavalry plan

As part of the strategic defence review, army chiefs are proposing the creation of an "air cavalry" that would merge the Parachute Regiment with units of Apache attack helicopters ..... Page 6

Sale rockets

Sotheby's is hoping to triple its pre-auction estimate of $7 million after three days of the sale of memorabilia and artefacts that once belonged to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor ..... Page 1

Union seeks rights

The Prison Officers' Association is meeting today to discuss industrial action over the Government's refusal to restore trade union rights ..... Page 10

Nurses wooed

Tens of thousands of nurses who abandoned the health service over rigid shift hours are to be wooed back by "family friendly" rotas that allow staff to choose when they are on duty ..... Page 2

India's poor worse off

As high-tech industries mushroom in Indian cities, the suicides in the past month of more than 100 cotton farmers in southern India highlight the failure of economic reforms to help the rural poor ..... Page 11

Palace post

Buckingham Palace is to take the unprecedented step of advertising for a high-powered director of communications ..... Page 8

Mandela intervenes

President Mandela entertained the entire Botha family to lunch in an attempt to persuade former President P.W. Botha, who faces a jail sentence, to co-operate with the Truth Commission ... Page 11

Fashion statement

Cherie Blair's favourite designer, Ronit Zilkha, managed to lure the media on a Sunday morning — normally the dead zone of London Fashion Week ..... Page 3

German angst

Acute unemployment and fears about their mark and savings are making Germans lose faith in the political class ..... Page 14

Countryside 'spared'

John Prescott will today announce measures to protect the countryside from developers; 60 per cent of new homes is to be built on urban or "brownfield" sites ..... Page 4

CIA incompetent

A just-released CIA report blames its own arrogance, ignorance and incompetence for the failure of the 1961 invasion of Cuba to overthrow Fidel Castro ..... Page 14

Dream of pulling pints falls flat

■ For its American winners, success in the "Win your own pub in Ireland" competition run by Guinness is turning into a nightmare of late nights, lonely days and a cycle of drunks and dirty glasses. Only the most recent of the four winners remains in Ireland; two sold up within 15 months while the fourth is considering an offer for his pub in Bantry, Co Cork ..... Page 9

A "Baby Dome", a 6,000-seat venue for live shows, is to be built alongside the Millennium Dome, taking shape at Greenwich. Page 1

BUSINESS

No to Barclays: Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief executive, has been rebuffed in his attempt to make an agreed £10 billion bid for rival Standard Chartered ..... Page 48

Jobs plan: The G8 industrial countries agreed to launch a jobs action plan aimed at marrying a cut in unemployment with more effective social protection ..... Page 48

Lonrho success: The backing of a key shareholder means JCI, of South Africa, can go ahead with the deal which allows Lonrho to buy back some of its shares ..... Page 45

Energy offer: Texas Utilities of Dallas is to make a £4.2 billion rival bid for The Energy Group, topping PacifiCorp's £4.05 billion offer for the Anglo-American business that owns Eastern Electricity .. Page 48

MIND AND MATTER

Number sense: Babies as young as five months old can deduce that one plus one equals two. In his new book, *The Number Sense*, Stanislas Dehaene, a mathematician-turned-cognitive scientist, says that we are all born with a feel for numbers. Anjana Ahuja reports ..... Page 15

STYLE

Missing link: Press & Bastyan clothes will drape, but will never cling. Grace Bradberry on the designers whose clothes work season after season ..... Page 16

FEATURES

West End hit: When Ute Lemper is not playing a vampish murderer, she is a besotted mother. Interview by Moira Petty ..... Page 17

Melvyn Bragg: "Last Wednesday in this newspaper, Ted Hughes dropped a bomb on the Dome. It was an ideas bomb that blasted away every other notion I had heard about what to put into that extraordinary new structure" ..... Page 18

Scrapyard sculpture: Anthony Caro, whose sculptures are the subject of a new National Gallery show, is a gleeful scavenger, a man who haunts scrapyards in search of art ..... Page 18

Berlin treat: Quentin Tarantino's new film *Jackie Brown* proves to be one of the highlights of this year's Berlin Film Festival ..... Page 19

Arena triumph: *Madam Butterfly* at the Albert Hall is an enjoyable, and even moving, night out for opera-goers ..... Page 19

Rugby Union: Phil Vickery, England's new prop forward, has been suspended for 30 days for punching Colin Charvis, of Wales, in Saturday's match ..... Page 35

Football: A mistake three minutes from time by their England goalkeeper Nigel Martyn cost Leeds United victory in a Premiership match at Newcastle ..... Page 29

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, won the European Community championship in Antwerp beating Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, by three sets to one ..... Page 26

Cricket: After John Crawley had failed again, Mark Ramprakash and Adam Hollioake, rivals for a Test place, led an England recovery against Guyana ..... Page 27

Winter Olympics: The inclusion of new and manifestly silly events reduced the attraction of the Nagano Games in which Britain's only medal, a bronze, came in the four-man bobsleigh ..... Page 33

Racing: Hunt trainer Paul Nicholls believes a great factor in his success is his decision not to subject his horses to summer racing ..Page 37

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
David Sinclair meets the Spice Girls as they prepare to conquer Europe

■ CLEAN PROFITS
How businesses can benefit from environmental standards — a 16-page supplement

2, 16, 25, 27, 37, 45. Bonus 10
Seven share the £8.7 million jackpot, winning £1.25 million each. Sixty-nine win £39,000 each for five balls and bonus; 1,187 get £1,422 each for five numbers; 57,363 win £64 for four balls; and, 1,039,772 win £10 for three balls

Preview: The effects of the chemical warfare that President Saddam Hussein threatens to unleash: *Dispatches Special* (C4, 10pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard loathes the format of *Heaven on Earth* (BBC1) but admits that the work is very good, so far ..... Pages 46, 47

Japan in the dock

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, must now ponder a simple question. Which will involve the greater humiliation: to admit that he erred in raising taxes, or to be treated as an outcast by the rest of the G7 club? ..... Page 21

Democratic mysteries

India's expensive and increasingly frequent calls on the voter are a necessary part of the country's breaking of the post-Independence political mould that the Congress Party had come to take for granted ..... Page 21

Half-term hangover

Perhaps it is time to redistribute half-term throughout the academic year. Rather than imposing three breaks of up to ten days, schools might offer pupils and staff regular long weekends ..... Page 21

COMMENT

PETER RIDDELL
Saying you are open to fresh thinking is not enough. The Tories now have the chance to outflank Labour and emerge as guardians of constitutional rights ..... Page 20

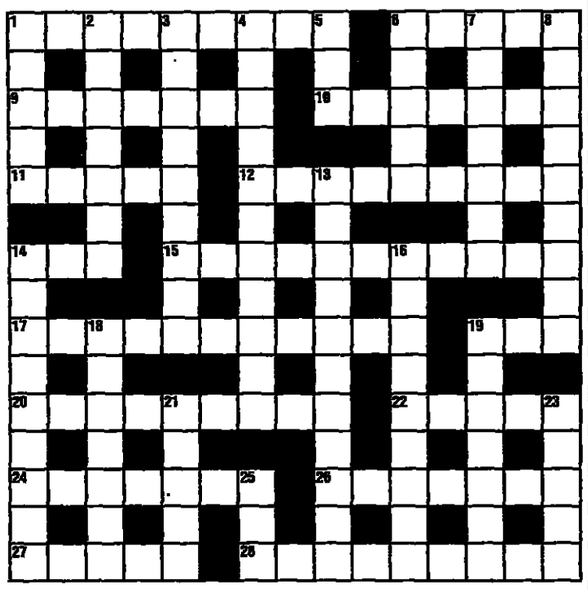
WILLIAM REES-MOGG
It comes as a shock to learn that one's great grandfather, however many times removed — I think he lived nine generations ago — was executed as a traitor ..... Page 20

Hogan Bassey, boxer; **Peter Faulks**, circuit judge; **Sir David Crouch**, former MP; **Walter Bishop Jr**, jazz pianist ..... Page 23

Channel tunnel rail link; PAC questioning; making of a good doctor; police performance ..... Page 21

War poses more risk for Clinton than for Saddam, and if there are civilian casualties and American losses not even Hillary will be able to go on TV and bale him out
— La Repubblica

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,722



ACROSS
1 She carries many a private passenger (9).
6 English king abandoning impenetrable moral code (5).
9 Looking like a goat that's always in the heather (7).
10 Finishes off all but my end in white (7).
11 American president introducing a dance (5).
12 A cavalryman accepting ungenerous grant (9).
14 Law officer standing *in loco parentis* (3).
15 He produces detailed plans, but faces opponents on the board (11).
17 Foremen given eye-shields of outstanding quality (11).
19 Carrier admiral half-heartedly provided (3).
20 Gourmet's article on cooked pie and pickle (9).
22 It's usually more valuable than a pig (5).
24 Speech from hunter about anti-hunt extremists (7).
26 Disinclination to move train that's broken down (7).
27 Poem Gray originally penned in English pasture? (5).
28 Journalists go to the Scotsman to recruit by force (5-4).

DOWN
1 Plant in which workers' representatives are on edge (5).
2 Have something in common — drink too much? (7).
3 Flirt with girl losing head after boy appears (9).
4 Lofty note about a writer being completely blotto (4,2,1,4).
5 Cut fruit and vegetable (3).
6 Mounting misery about pound demanded for joint (5).
7 What's green for one literary figure, grey for another? (7).
8 Anxious journalist shoring up house (9).
13 Volunteer fighter's first part of journey on Northern river (11).
14 Cooked food put in a vessel during church function (9).
16 Petulance in some quarters after trial (9).
18 Gibbon, perhaps, upset at empire coming to premature end? (7).
19 Is one fed up having this? (4,3).
21 Number one principle of dramatic structure (5).
23 Pluck shown by wife in Chinese dynasty (5).
25 The rest of the game (3).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,721 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.59 am — Sun sets: 5.30 pm
Moon sets 1.45 pm — Moon rises 4.39 am
New moon February 26
London 5.30 pm to 6.57 am
Bristol 5.40 pm to 7.07 am
Edinburgh 5.34 pm to 7.17 am
Manchester 5.35 pm to 7.09 am
Penzance 5.54 pm to 7.16 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** Mild everywhere. Most of England and Wales cloudy, with light rain or drizzle spreading southwards. Rain will clear from the Midlands, the North East and East Anglia, and those areas will brighten with a little sunshine. Scotland and Northern Ireland windy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle and patches of hill fog, mostly in the west; in the east it will become drier and brighter. Dry and cloudy in most of the Irish Republic, but drizzle in northern areas.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, SW England, Channel Is:** Bright at first, then dull skies and patchy drizzle. Moderate west or southwest wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E Anglia, Midlands, E, Cent N, NE England:** Dull with patchy drizzle, but becoming drier and brighter later. Moderate westerly wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Wales, NW England, Lakes, IoM:** Mostly cloudy with occasional drizzly rain. Drier in the afternoon. Brisk southwest wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** Mostly cloudy with some light rain and drizzle, but the coast may see the odd brighter interlude. Strong SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** Overcast with some light rain and drizzle, especially this morning. Blustery southwest wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Overcast with spells of rain and hill fog. Strong southwest wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** Patchy drizzle in the north; otherwise dry but rather cloudy. A little sunshine in the east. Moderate westerly wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** Mostly dry, mild and settled with a little sunshine. Mist or fog overnight.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; da=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.0	0.02	8	46	s
Anglesey	8.3	0.05	9	48	s
Aspatria	7.2	0.56	9	48	c
Aviemore	4.1	0.04	8	46	r
Belfast	6.6	0.01	10	50	s
Birmingham	5.3	-	10	50	s
Bognor R	9.4	0.07	10	50	s
Bournem'th	8.9	0.06	11	52	s
Bristol	8.0	0.02	11	52	s
Buxton	8.5	0.02	7	45	s
Cardiff	X	0.01	12	54	s
Clacton	7.0	-	9	48	s
Cleethorpes	8.6	0.01	11	52	s
Colwyn Bay	8.3	0.12	10	50	s
Cromer	7.7	-	7	45	s
Eastbourne	8.5	0.06	11	52	s
Edinburgh	5.5	0.07	10	50	sh
Eskdalemuir	5.9	0.19	8	46	sh
Exmouth	9.4	0.04	10	50	s
Falmouth	7.3	0.07	10	50	s
Fishguard	8.0	0.05	8	46	s
Folkestone	7.8	0.01	10	50	s
Glasgow	6.0	0.15	10	50	sh
Hastings	7.6	0.02	10	50	s
Hayling I.	9.1	0.05	11	52	s
Hove	5.6	0.04	11	52	s
Isle of Man	8.1	0.06	10	50	s
Isle of Wight	9.2	0.12	10	50	s
Jersey	7.4	0.05	10	50	sh
Kinloss	2.6	0.03	9	48	r

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Leeds	8.4	-	11	52	s
Lerwick	0.4	0.20	8	46	h
Leuchars	5.0	0.02	9	48	du
Littlehmpln	8.4	0.03	10	50	s
London	9.4	-	10	50	s
Lowestoft	4.6	0.01	9	48	s
Manchester	6.0	0.05	10	50	s
Margate	7.5	0.01	9	48	s
Morecambe	8.6	0.02	9	48	s
Newcastle	6.6	0.02	10	50	s
Newquay	6.4	0.02	10	50	s
Norwich	6.7	-	9	48	s
Oxford	9.4	0.01	10	50	s
Penzance	X				
Poole	7.5	0.03	11	52	s
Prestatyn	X	0.04	10	50	s
Ross on Wye	X	0.03	11	52	s
Seaham Snd	8.0	0.10	10	50	s
Scarboro'	9.1	-	9	48	s
Shrewsbury	8.0	0.04	10	50	s
Skegness	8.3	0.01	10	50	s
Southend	8.3	-	10	50	s
Southport	X	0.08	9	48	s
Stornoway	0.9	0.11	9	48	sh
Swanage	9.7	0.05	11	52	s
Teignmouth	9.4	0.05	11	52	s
Tenby	8.9	0.06	10	50	s
Tiree	3.0	0.02	9	48	s
Torquay	9.5	0.04	12	54	s
Weymouth	9.2	0.03	11	52	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	17	63	s	Majorca	19	66	s	S Paulo	X		
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phegn	10	50	s	Malaga	16	61	c	Salzburg	17	63	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dublin	8	48	f	Malta	17	63	f	Santiago	26	79	s
Algiers	22	72	s	Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Melb'rne	19	66	f	Seoul	7	45	f
Amst'dm	11	52	d	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	X			Sing'por	33	91	f
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	13	55	s	Miami	26	79	s	St'kholm	8	46	s
B Aires	22	72	c	Frankfurt	13	55	s	Milan	14	57	s	Sraseb'rg	18	64	s
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	18	61	f	Montreal	1	34	f	Sydney	25	77	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	15	61	s	Moscow	3	37	c	Tangier	19	66	f
Barbados	27	81	f	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Munich	15	59	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Barcelona	16	61	s	Helsinki	5	41	c	N Delhi	21	70	s	Tenerife	24	75	s
Beijing	6	43	f	Hong K	19	66	f	N York	7	45	s	Tokyo	6	43	c
Beirut	16	61	f	Innsbrck	15	59	s	Nairobi	26	79	f	Toronto	2	36	c
Belgrade	18	64	s	Istanbul	15	59	s	Naples	17	63	s	Tunis	19	66	s
Berlin	13	55	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	Nice	15	59	f	Valencia	14	57	s
Bermuda	X			Jo'burg	28	73	f	Oslo	7	45	c	Vanc'ver	9	48	c
Biarritz	12	54	f	Karachi	X			Paris	12	54	r	Venice	12	54	s
Borde'x	12	54	r	L Angels	14	57	s	Perth	31	88	s	Vienna	14	57	s
Brussels	13	55	f	L Palmas	22	72	f	Prague	10	50	s	Warsaw	12	54	s
Budapst	14	57	s	La Tquet	10	50	f	Reykjavik	-4	25	s	Wash'ton	X		
Cairo	17	63	s	Lisbon	18	61	s	Rhodes	16	61	s	Wel'gton	22	72	x
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Locarno	13	56	x	Rio de J	30	86	f	Zurich	15	59	s
Ch'church	29	84	x	Luxembg	11	52	s	Riyadh	25	77	s				
Chicago	6	43	s	Luxor	23	73	s	Rome	16	61	f				
Cologne	15	59	s	Madrid	13	55	f	S Fr'sco	12	54	f				

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available

Changes to chart below from noon: High A moves slowly northeast to be over southern England by midnight on Wednesday. Low K moves quickly northeast and slowly fills. Low U remains in Gulf of Bothnia.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	10:41	3.7	11:17	3.8
Avonmouth	3:54	10.7	4:27	11.2
Ballast	8:05	3.0	8:38	3.1
Cardiff	3:40	10.0	4:13	10.4
Devonport	2:20	4.5	3:00	4.5
Dover	8:01	5.6	8:36	5.8
Dublin	8:51	3.5	9:27	3.7
Falmouth	1:51	4.3	2:31	4.3
Greenock	10:00	2.9	10:09	2.6
Harwich	8:41	3.3	9:12	3.4
Holyhead	7:38	4.7	8:10	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	3:17	7.9	3:43	7.5
Ilfracombe	2:52	7.3	3:24	7.6
King's Lynn	3:19	5.2	3:48	5.5
Leith	11:51	4.7	-	-

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	8:18	7.9	8:51	8.1
London Bridge	10:41	5.8	11:15	5.9
Lowestoft	8:38	2.2	7:00	2.3
Margate	8:01	4.0	8:30	4.2
Milford Haven	3:59	5.5	3:40	5.8
Newquay	2:07	5.6	2:37	5.8
Oban	3:24	3.2	3:45	3.3
Penzance	1:34	4.5	2:04	4.6
Portland	3:36	1.4	4:18	1.5
Portsmouth	8:33	4.9	9:15	5.1
Shoreham	8:11	5.2	8:45	5.4
Southampton	7:42	3.9	8:27	4.1
Swansea	3:12	7.7	3:45	8.0
Tees	0:38	4.5	1:02	4.7
Walton-On-Naze	8:41	3.5	9:12	3.6

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Cardiff, 12C (64F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Aspatria, Cumbria, 0.56in; highest sunshine: Swanage, Dorset, 9.7hr.

Under the weather?
The Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

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هكذا من الأصل

FAST FORWARD

British bobsleigh team claim bronze at Winter Olympics

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MIXED BLESSINGS

Will Lord's welcome women? Sarah Potter seeks the views of MCC's president

PAGE 27

TEST OF FAITH

Why Diana's butler is taking to the streets of London

PAGE 38

SERVICE RESUMED

Rusedski saves the best till last in Antwerp

PAGE 26

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23 1998

RECORD-BREAKERS GET HERO'S WELCOME

English joy and Welsh frustration were unconfined in the one-sided encounter at Twickenham while France showed verve with a capital "V" in the vibrant victory over Scotland at Murrayfield

Divisions appear as England and France prove class apart

David Hands fears that Saturday's glut of tries may have far-reaching consequences

FIVE nations, six nations — two nations? While England sit out the next round of rugby union's Five Nations Championship and reflect with pleasure on the abrupt termination of a seven-match run without a victory, the administrators of the championship have cause to wonder about the validity of their 88-year-old tournament.

This is not a new situation. During the 1970s, Wales and France were so dominant that a first and second division were talked of within a championship of only five teams. But the possibility of surprise results ensured its sustained allure. Now, with the arrival of professionalism, *there seems none and, if sport* becomes that predictable, it loses its popular hold.

That England with 60 points against Wales at Twickenham, and France with 51 against Scotland at Murrayfield should break championship-scoring records on the same day throws a pall over the Five Nations. There seems, indeed, a dreadful irony that Wales and Scotland should come together on March 7 on English soil, at Wembley; the Welsh do not even have *the comfort* this season, while the Arms Park is being rebuilt in Cardiff, of retreating to their valleys for spiritual renewal.

Whatever the twisted politics of domestic rugby in England, *the fact* remains that the strength of the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership lies in the high level of competition between the contending clubs. Newcastle and Saracens may have opened a gap but it is possible to envisage them being hauled back, and that uncertainty draws more spectators to the game, even in areas where it has no strong tradition.

It is hard to see France and England being caught in the same way. They have those twin components, manpower and money, that their Celtic rivals do not. What were the implications, Kevin Bowring was asked, for Wales after a record-breaking defeat? "We are not going to *chuck in the towel," the Wales coach* said, "but we do not have the playing population of England and France. New Zealand do it, but they have twice the number of players we have and they are working off the back of success."

Ah, New Zealand. Standard-setters as ever, against whom England played twice last autumn, as well as against Australia and South Africa. Welshmen on Saturday night were making thoughtful comparisons with their own pre-championship games, against New Zealand once but also against Romania, Tonga and Italy. Is *that now the level of a once-proud* rugby nation?

The admission of Italy in 2000 to create a six-nation tournament is right but there is no guarantee that it will change the situation. Whatever the rights and wrongs of links with *the southern hemisphere, the north* needs a strong tournament of its own that is attractive to spectators and commerce.

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

Yet, last season, England (141) and France (129) scored more points in the Five Nations than they have ever done. This season France have scored 75 in two matches while England have scored 77. "I think New Zealanders would be inspired by the fact that 80 points could be scored in a Five Nations game," John Mitchell, England's assistant coach and himself a New Zealander, said on Saturday. "It's good for the game and great for the fans."

Is it? If you pay £35 for your ticket and the same again or more for your travel, you want to see competition across 80 minutes, discernible shape and structure to your afternoon's sport. You also need heroes, and the obvious danger is that youngsters from Scotland, Ireland and Wales will go where there is both money and glory.

The problem of sustaining a level of competition throughout Britain and Ireland is one that, in amateur days, could be answered by referring to rugby's inevitable cycle of success and failure. Money makes a difference: money gives you the power to buy success.

It may be that the present situation among the five nations will change once the political turmoil settles down but that happy state of affairs could be years away and, in the meantime, the damage done to international reputations will not be easily remedied.

Lynne Truss, page 35
France rampant, page 34
Lawrence Dallaglio, page 35

England 60 Wales 26

WHAT THEY SAID

Allan Martin

(former Wales lock)

"My gut feeling is that there is a division in the Championship, England and France on the one hand, Ireland, Scotland and Wales on the other. The professional era has created haves and have-nots, and Wales are have-nots. Unless they restructure, become less incestuous and play more rugby with the English clubs, there is a danger of Wales being left behind. Morale is pretty low now, gates are dwindling and, in a multi-media community, everyone knows how things stand. There are a lot of good players in Wales but there is a lack of confidence — we need a more competitive environment."

Fran Cotton

(former England prop, now vice-chairman of the RFU management board)

One or two adverse results won't make a difference to the Championship but we must continue to work together to bring everyone forward. We can start by playing one another at all age levels, and I am convinced that a Super 16 tournament in Europe will help the other nations more than it will England. Wales have problems in the right but that has been the case for a long time and it's something you can work at, particularly under the present laws where you don't necessarily need tall men to be able to win lineout ball."

Gavin Hastings

(former Scotland full-back and captain)

"I don't think the two games reflect poorly on the Championship. Both the winning teams played extremely well and I was delighted to see the magnificent rugby that was on show. In the modern day there is always the likelihood of having bigger scores than in the past; France and England are setting trends the rest must follow in the northern hemisphere. But remember last two years ago Scotland played England for a grand slam and France were struggling. It's only two games into the 1998 tournament, too early to suggest we need to worry about the Championship."

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Trade Mark

Henman puts bold face on first-round test against Krajicek at new tennis venue in Battersea

Five Britons aim to turn on the power

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IF CONTEMPORARY tennis players can be likened to a tribe of Bedouin, it is somehow appropriate that 32 of the world's finest congregate today inside a giant tent to commemorate the return of indoor tennis to Britain.

Not since Michael Chang won the Indoor Challenge in Birmingham seven years ago has Britain staged a carpet tournament of significance. Although Chang is not among the competitors this week, the Guardian Direct Cup has attracted ten of the leading 18 players in the world. It is a fitting entry with which to fanfare a most unusual event.

Morning joggers through Battersea Park, London, may have pondered the significance of the structure taking shape before their bleary eyes. Inside that intimidating marquee, grand-slam title-winners Petr Korda, Pat Rafter, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Sergi Bruguera and Richard Krajicek join a five-strong British entry to rebuff the domestic perception that tennis only takes place in the summer months.

The tournament organisers will be celebrating another welcome development after Greg Rusedski nailed his first title of the year, and the sixth of his career, in Antwerp yesterday. Along with Tim Henman, Rusedski's prominence among the world elite was instrumental in securing the event from its previous home in Milan.

Andrew Richardson, Martin Lee and Chris Wilkinson are Britain's other entrants here, but many will be hoping that Henman's recent form does not leave him mourning his fifth successive first-round exit. The tennis player most representative of the Union flag has played just four matches in five weeks. Few in Henman's predicament would relish the prospect of meeting an in-form Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, in the opening round — although he did beat him at Wimbledon last year.

Henman's coach, David Felgate, refuses to panic. "It seems that everyone else is more worried about his form than Tim is," Felgate said. "All players go through bad periods, but Tim is practising hard and his head is right."

Henman is expected to drop out of the world's top 20 when the rankings are updated this morning. Against that, he was inactive for two months this time last year. His fall has bottomed out: now would be an opportune moment for him to regain some momentum.

Of the other Britons, Rusedski's Antwerp final defeat of Mark Rosset may have softened up the latter for Richardson, the Great Britain No 3, who plays the big-serving Swiss in the opening round. Rosset's recent exertions mean that the contest may be delayed until Wednesday.

Lee — like Richardson, a wild-card entrant here — will open Britain's assault on the prize against Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, today. Ulihrach, ranked No 33 in the world, will not relish the prospect, particularly if Lee can recapture the mood that swept him to the last 16 at Queen's last June.

Wilkinson, denied the luxury of a wild card, came through the qualifying competition in great style yesterday when he mastered Mikael Tillstrom, world-ranked No 71, 6-4, 7-5. Wilkinson, who has a good record on home soil and is ranked No 179 in the world, has a first-round meeting with the erratic Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa.

Whatever the fate of Britain's quintet, the Guardian Direct Cup will act as a litmus for the viability of staging further high-profile tournaments in this country. The recent exploits of Rusedski and Henman have been gained on foreign pastures. For all their merit, there is nothing quite like success on home soil to stir the interest. Rusedski is an obvious candidate for the prize. Victory for him would add another plank to the raft presently gathering pace in previously placid waters.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: Centre court: 10.30am: D Vacek (Cz) v K Alami (Mor). 12.30pm: B Ulihrach (Cz) v M Lee (GB). 2.30: J Siemerink (Hol) v S Bruguera (Sp); 7.00: G Ivanisevic (Cro) v K Carlsen (Den), followed by T Henman (GB) and M Rosset (Swtz) v M Damm (Cz) and J Grabb (US). Court One: 12.30: M Bamard and B Talbot (SA) v J Jager and R Koenig (SA), followed by T Kempers and M Oosting (Hol) v M-K Goliner (Ger) and M Tillstrom (Swe), P Alberio (Arg) and P Nyborg (Swe) v A Kitinov (Macedonia) and P Vizner (Cz)

DUSAN VRANIC

Rusedski displays the concentration and power that swept him to victory over Rosset in Antwerp

Stars set to shine in a tent

Alix Ramsay looks at an unlikely venue for international tennis

In 48 hours, some of the best tennis players in the world will arrive in Battersea Park for the inaugural Guardian Direct Cup. They will come expecting the five-star treatment that goes with their status as the rich and the great, and yet the centre of their universe for the next seven days will be a large tent in South London.

There is little time left to prepare, yet there is an eerie sense of calm about the place. The workmen heaving large rolls of carpet and rigging the lighting gantries seem cheery enough, while those in charge seem only slightly irritated by the constant ringing of their mobile phones. It all seems too good to be true.

The Guardian Direct Cup is the first attempt at bringing top-level indoor tennis to London since the late 1980s, when interest in the Wembley event petered out as the powers of John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors waned. However, these days, tennis in Great Britain has a new bounce in its step, thanks to the rise and rise of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, and Battersea Park is a mark of that.

Such is the way of things on the ATP Tour that events can be moved, lock, stock and racket stringer, from one city to another, provided that the right infrastructure is in place. With tennis falling in the popularity ratings in Italy, the Milan event was struggling and looking to move. With tennis on the up in Britain, why not bring it here?

When Jeremy Dier, the tournament promoter, received a call after Wimbledon last year asking if he fancied staging a tennis tournament, he leapt at the chance, ignoring the fact that he had nowhere to hold it and nobody to pay for it. London was seen as the obvious location — the players knew and liked the city, so too their wives and girlfriends and the local community knew and liked tennis.

That still left Dier with the problem of where in London to put his event. Wembley was too far out of the city centre and too old, the Docklands Arena was too hard to get to and the Albert Hall was fully booked. Dier, an imaginative soul, decided to build his own venue. Battersea Park had all the right qualifications: it is a stone's throw from Chelsea and the target market, it has good public transport and it has a huge area of concrete hard-standing upon which to build your shed. It may not be conventional, but that is part of its appeal.

The field, including Henman and Rusedski, was guaranteed to be strong, for the only other tournament being held this week is in Philadelphia. The Europeans had nowhere else to go, therefore. By September, ProServ, the sports management company, had joined Dier and his colleagues and, by October, they had the official go ahead. Two weeks ago, the builders moved in, bringing with them everything from the courts to the waste paper bins, all the component parts of championship event.

The arena, which is part shed, part tent, has two courts and seating for 5,000, all arranged within touching distance of the players. Around half of the tickets have been sold for the 13 sessions, but with tickets available each day on the site, Dier is hoping for more in passing trade. If his confidence is any guide, then he may just get them.

Rusedski has final word in British dispute

BY ALIX RAMSAY

AFTER a stinging attack on Tim Henman earlier in the week, it was time for Greg Rusedski to put his money where his mouth was yesterday in the final of the European Community Championship in Antwerp. Rusedski, annoyed that Henman, one place behind him at No 2 in the British rankings and considerably further behind him than that in the world rankings, had opted not to play in the World Team Cup in May. "This is a case of the top player not making the final decision," he had complained.

Given the chance to show Henman just who was boss, Rusedski won his first title of the year and the sixth of his career by beating Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. After a slow start to the new season, Rusedski has been working himself back in to form on the European indoor circuit, reaching the final in Croatia two weeks ago and going one better this time. The win could move him up one place in the world rankings to No 8 when the new list is issued today.

Rosset is used to playing Britons in Antwerp. Last year, he beat Henman in the final, but, this time, he found Rusedski a tougher challenge. Standing 6ft 7in, Rosset can play Rusedski at his own game and usually tries to blast the opposition off the court with a fearsome first service. But when like meets like, especially on a slowish surface, the battle can last for days.

After missing the chance to take an early lead when Rosset saved three break points in the fourth game, Rusedski was forced in to a tie-break to gain the upper hand. An ace gave him three set points and, after nearly an hour of combat, he was finally ahead.

It has not been the easiest of weeks for Rusedski and while he made his way through the rounds, victory was never a foregone conclusion. However, having sorted out the technical side of his game with Brian Teacher last year, he is now working on the tactical side with Tony Pickard and it has been his ability to think his way out of trouble this week that has seen him through.

After Rosset had fought his way back in the second set, Rusedski launched an all-out attack in third. The Swiss challenge was finally extinguished in the fourth game of the fourth set. After breaking for a 2-1 lead, Rusedski was suddenly in trouble and facing three break points. He responded with three clean aces to reach deuce and then took the game. From 3-1 up, he never looked back, taking the final point with yet another ace.

Rusedski was a happy man afterwards, especially as his name now joins those of Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe on the roll of honour, and there is the small matter of the $1 million gold and diamond racket awarded to anyone who wins the event three times in five years to consider. "Sure, I wouldn't mind having that in my house, but I think I'd better win the title twice before I start thinking about that," he said.

Despite cracking down a total of 23 aces during the final, Rusedski was still not completely satisfied with the way that he served. "I didn't serve well, but I served clever," he said. That seems to be the difference in Rusedski since he began working with Pickard and Rusedski is generous in his praise of the man who guided Stefan Edberg to six grand slam titles.

Not that Rusedski has much time to enjoy his victory. From Antwerp, he was heading back to London and the Guardian Direct Cup, in Battersea Park — and Henman.

SNOOKER: O'SULLIVAN'S FINAL FLOURISH PUTS HIM FOUR FRAMES FROM SCOTTISH OPEN WIN

Higgins fails to take chances

BY PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS, well accustomed to the disappointment of being a runner-up in leading events this season, faced the possibility of more dejection midway through the final of the Regal Scottish Open in Aberdeen yesterday.

Higgins, who has won only the German Open this season, despite figuring in the final of four previous tournaments, committed a series of unforced errors as O'Sullivan built a 5-3 lead without threatening to strike anything remotely near peak form.

Higgins, frozen out in a scrappy opening frame, cleared brown to black to steal the second and moved ahead of an opponent he has overcome on their three most recent meetings by compiling a 57 break in the third. Trailing 37-2 in the fourth, O'Sullivan defied the percentages by attempting a risky black across the top cushion. It fell and he went on to fashion a 78 clearance to draw level at 2-2.

A 44 break saw Higgins regain the advantage but the Scot squandered an opportunity to forge on in the sixth. Requiring only the last red, Higgins jawed it from distance. O'Sullivan, by now showing more caution than he had during the early exchanges, laid a snooker and eventually cleared with 33 to snatch the frame on the black.

Unsettled, Higgins did not bother the scorers in the closing two frames of the afternoon as O'Sullivan swiftly accounted for them with breaks of 31, 62, and 81.

O'Sullivan was left requiring only four of the remaining nine frames for victory.

FINAL: R O'Sullivan (Eng) leads J Higgins (Eng) 5-3. Frame scores (O'Sullivan first): 71-10, 59-69, 23-70, 79-37, 23-72, 51-49, 93-0, 94-0.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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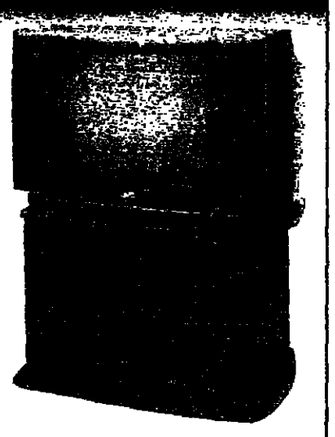
The winner of last week's World Cup Quiz is Mr Mark Warren of Slough. The answers are: Three times, 1962 and Stade de France. (The correct answers for the first week's quiz were: Brazil, Russian, 1990.) Every week we will be posing three questions to test your knowledge of the World Cup.



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1. Who scored both goals for England against Poland at Wembley in a World Cup qualifying match last year?
a) Teddy Sherringham b) Alan Shearer c) Ian Wright

2. Which country created history when they became the first team to win a World Cup match on the golden rule?
a) Iran b) Saudi Arabia c) Japan

3. Brazil have played in a record 73 games in the finals of the World Cup. This record is equalled by which other country?
a) Germany b) Italy c) Argentina

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CHANGING TIMES

HOCKEY

Seven-goal Slough win title

THERE has never been a championship quite like it. As expected and with three matches in hand, Slough ruthlessly swept aside Doncaster 7-0 to capture the women's National League premier division title for the sixth time in nine years (Cathy Harris writes).

The race may be over, but the champions are not finished. John Shaw, the coach and former England and Great Britain international, said that Slough had set their sights on becoming the first team to finish their campaign with a 100 per cent record. "At the start of the season we wanted to open the gap between ourselves and the rest, to win by convincing margins and we've done that," he said.

It has been a remarkable performance by an ambitious and talented squad that often boasts 11 internationals in the starting line-up, and has scored more goals than the combined total of its two nearest rivals, Ipswich and Clifton. "If they hadn't won," Sandie Lister, the Ipswich captain, said, "you'd have to ask what the hell went wrong."

After Lucy Cope scored the first of her brace in the third minute, defender Ali Burd was twice on target and Karen Brown also found the net. The Scotland striker, Sue MacDonald, established herself as the league's leading scorer with two more, taking her tally to 17.

Slough compete in the European indoor club championship in Germany this weekend before completing their league programme.

Canterbury maintain momentum

CANTERBURY continued their challenge for the men's National League premier division title by defeating Southgate 3-2 at the Polo Farm yesterday, but they gave their supporters several anxious moments before victory was assured (Sydney Friskin writes).

They squandered a 2-0 lead, conceded 12 short corners and could thank their goalkeeper, Triggs, for keeping their lead intact.

In the early skirmishes, each side missed easy chances — Sully for Southgate and Laslett for Canterbury — before two goals by Hacker from short corners gave Canterbury the start they needed.

However, a well-taken goal by Waugh put Southgate back in the match and, two minutes into the second half, Simons converted a penalty stroke to level the score. A special effort by Wicken in the 47th minute was enough to give Canterbury the points.

Cannock maintained their three-point lead over Canterbury at the top of the table with a 6-1 trouncing of Hounslow at Chiswick. Crutchley scoring in the first 24 seconds and adding two more goals to bring his total to 35 in 18 matches.

Doncaster earned a point from a 2-2 draw with East Grinstead, but remain at the foot of the table. Beeston, the other team in the relegation zone, raised their hopes with a 3-1 victory over Old Loughtonians to draw level with Barford Tigers.

Brooklands finished the day at the top of the first division, a point ahead of Bournville.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Fryatt claims famous scalp in play-off win

■ **GOLF:** Edward Fryatt beat Lee Westwood, the defending champion, at the second hole of a play-off for the Malaysian Open championship in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. After the pair, both from England, had tied with a four-round total of 278, Fryatt was safely on the second extra hole in three shots, whereas Westwood, the Ryder Cup player, took five to reach the green, missed his first putt and then conceded the hole.
☐ Wendy Ward rolled in a four-foot par putt on the first hole of a play-off with Dana Dormann to win the Hawaiian Women's Open. Laura Davies finished a shot behind the leading pair after a final round of 69 for a total of 205.
☐ David Duval had a seven-stroke lead after the third round of the Tucson Classic in Arizona.

Golding in the groove

■ **ATHLETICS: Julian Golding confirmed his standing as favourite to win the European indoor 200 metres title in Valencia, Spain, next weekend, by recording another impressive victory in Lievin, France, yesterday. The Briton powered home in 20.63 seconds. At the same meeting Maria Mutola, of Mozambique, broke the world indoor 800 metres record, clocking 1min 56.36sec to lower the mark of 1:56.40 set by Christine Wachtel, of East Germany, in 1988.**

Bees strike in overtime

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Two of the three Superleague matches played on Saturday went to over-time, with Dale Junkin scoring the vital goal for Bracknell Bees after 89 seconds of the extra period to give them a 6-5 success over Cardiff Devils and Kraig Nienhuis taking 22 seconds longer to give Nottingham Panthers their 3-2 win over Basingstone Bison.

Winters take charge

■ **BOXING: Mark Winters, of Ulster, made a successful first defence of the British light-welterweight championship by outpointing Bernard Paul, of London, in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, on Saturday. However, the score of 117-113 did not reflect his dominance.**

Lindsay issues challenge

■ **ROWING:** Andrew Lindsay, the Oxford President, will start the run-up to the 144th Boat Race (on March 28) today when he challenges his Cambridge opposite number, David Cassidy, before they announce their crews. The umpire will be Mike Sweeney, a Cambridge Blue in 1965 and 1966.

Edwards under pressure

■ **SAILING: Tracy Edwards, of Great Britain, and her all-women crew on board the 92ft catamaran *Royal & SunAlliance*, are 200 miles behind the equivalent position of Olivier de Kersauson, the record-holder, 19 days into their attempt to set a non-stop round-the-world record.**

Ripley strikes gold

■ **ROWING:** Andy Ripley, the former England rugby union No 8, defeated a strong field in the veteran category over 2,000 metres at the world indoor championships in Boston, Massachusetts, yesterday to win a gold medal in a time of 6min 7.7sec, just outside his own world record.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Close call as Widnes hang on

A SMART, all-seater stadium has replaced dilapidated Naughton Park, but the talent at Widnes still falls short of matching a Super League stage (Peter Wilson writes).

Their 22-20 first-division win over spirited Rochdale owed much to the Hornets' failure to stick to the rules. After-match suggestions that luck was with the former world champions were not wide of the mark.

Widnes scored 12 points while Rochdale were reduced to 11 men — Carl Marriott and Wayne Reid having been sin-binned for holding down in the tackle — and that proved a critical time in an entertaining match.

Graeme West, the coach, admitted: "We did not play up to standard today and we do tend to make life difficult for ourselves. We scored two tries while they were reduced to 11 men, but we should not need that sort of an advantage."

The highlight of Widnes's first league win was a spectacular solo try from Jamie Bloem, their South African centre, in the 63rd minute. The low light was a Bloem blunder that allowed Steve Hall, the Rochdale prop, the simplest of tries and gave the Widnes supporters an anxious few closing minutes.

Jim Salisbury, the Widnes full back, pounced on a kick by Paul Howell for the opening try, but damaged his shoulder in the process and was carried from the field. Peter Fitzgerald, the Rochdale full back, levelled the scores — and he, too, was later carried off with a serious leg injury. The Hornets looked the more impressive side and took a 14-6 lead with tries from David Jones and Paul Stevens before indiscipline proved expensive and Kyle White, the Widnes captain, and Bloem went over.

Bloem's late error allowed Rochdale to set up the close finish.

Whitehaven Warriors won 45-26 at Leigh, their second victory of the season, to keep Cumbrian promotion hopes alive. However, Hull Kingston Rovers remain the team most likely to lift the first-division title.

Results, page 39

On the eve of the vote on mixed membership at Lord's, **Sarah Potter** discovers the views of the MCC president

Long-standing boundary comes under fresh attack

The president of MCC only has a short innings. "I've had plenty of those in my time," Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the present incumbent and captain of Hampshire's championship-winning side of 1961, joked. "But I didn't have that long a list of things I wanted to achieve at Lord's, so two years ought to be long enough."

A modest assessment, for what Ingleby-Mackenzie, 64, is trying to achieve is perhaps more difficult than batting at Sabina Park proved for England last month. If the doors to the Long Room are at last to be held open for women members, it will herald the biggest break with tradition in MCC's 211-year history.

"I support the idea of lady members because we've got to live with change and progress," he said. "It's not just about doing the decent thing. Lord's is unique and the ground is becoming more progressive. I wanted to wipe away the fuddy-duddy image of old men puffing on pipes. Our passion is for cricket and that should include both sexes."

The Test match grounds in Jamaica and Trinidad, from where Ingleby-Mackenzie has only recently returned, also bar women from the pavilion. "I was hoping you wouldn't mention that," he said. "It's true that the islands are very insular, but they are watching closely to see what happens here."

The postal votes from MCC's 18,000 male members have been rolling in since January. "It's been a very interesting process since it was first rejected in 1991 by 67 per cent to 33 per cent," he said. "When I became president in October 1996, I knew it was something we had to address.

"Then, when we put in for a lottery grant to help redevelop the ground, it was one of five reasons given why we weren't going to be successful. That didn't have any influence on the timing of this vote, but I felt it was right to look at it again."

The president was keen to lead from the front. "I thought it was very important to give a nudge to the members so that they could be guided by the committee — their spokesman, if you like. They have complete freedom to vote as they wish but the idea of the letter that we sent out was to help them to summarise their *thinking*."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Potter and Ingleby-Mackenzie discuss the possibility of women members being allowed at the home of cricket

Now, with the special general meeting at Lord's tomorrow, it is decision time. A simple in or out traditionally *settles cricket appeals but not* this time; a two-thirds majority is required to carry the resolution.

However, the possible intervention of a "third umpire" should not be ruled out. If a majority vote is won, but falls short of the required margin, it is not unthinkable that a legal challenge will emerge from behind the pavilion. Something Ingleby-Mackenzie refuses to contemplate.

"A majority vote would be the logical thing," he said, "but those are the rules. My main hope is that there is a strong vote, whichever way it goes. It often happens that only 7,000 or so send in their views, but it would make me feel happier if all the members acted."

So what is it about female membership that so terrifies *the men? "They're nervous* because they think it will strongly affect the waiting-list," Ingleby-Mackenzie said. "Also, that there will be streams of women running around the Long Room in a state of great excitement, creating the wrong impression."

With the waiting-list between 15 and 20 years, though, a female invasion is highly unlikely. "I think some honorary memberships would probably be awarded," he said, "though that has yet to be discussed."

Women are not the strangers they once were to the game's hallowed home. The England team, as I found to my pleasure in 1987, are openly welcomed. The distaff side have enjoyed the free run of the pavilion, if escorted by a member, for two days during *the past couple of summers.*

"The atmosphere in the pavilion for those games was excellent," Ingleby-Mackenzie said. "Change will be a gradual process and once the buzz and excitement has passed, it will be accepted very quickly. It is not, as someone has said, about 'putting up pink curtains'. It's a cricket club and the emphasis will always be on cricket."

Nonetheless, there have been a few extreme reactions, according to the president. "One man did say that if a naked woman lay down in front of the pavilion most members would simply step over her without any interest."

The odd misogynist evidently still has a pulse but the final irony is that, with the average age of members now *standing at 57, some of the* present crop will not even be around to witness the full consequences of a yes vote.

Ramprakash is ready to step out of the shade

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN GEORGETOWN

MARK RAMPRAKASH has waited seven weeks for the chance to reclaim the Test place he thought was his. Yesterday, on a crumbling pitch and in circumstances to search out defects of character, he made his case. If not yet unanswerable, it most certainly demands consideration.

Before a ball was bowled on this Caribbean tour, Ramprakash was told by the England management that his part in it could be peripheral. By his own, candid admission, he was dismayed and unprepared for this but, in his worst imaginings, he cannot have contemplated being marginalised for so long.

The tour is more than half over, but his innings yesterday was his first. Moreover, he had to play it on a club ground at a point when England, replying to Guyana's modest 184, had lost four wickets for 24. The horror of failure, the exile that could follow, must have pressed in upon him.

Sceptics will have expected him to submit but the majority, admiring his talent and relating to his setbacks, were willing him to succeed, and he did so. A fifth-wicket stand of 75 with Hollioake took England to safer ground and Ramprakash then pushed on towards a half-century of immense, personal significance.

A game of this frenetic nature — 14 wickets fell in its first four sessions — was the last thing that England expected on viewing a baked, grassless pitch. First-class cricket has not previously been staged on this quaint, seafront ground and there seemed no reason to believe that three days would be enough for a positive outcome.

Appearances deceived. By yesterday, the surface was cratered, offering occasional poor bounce for the quicker bowlers and consistent turn for the spinners. It had spun appreciably, indeed, from the first morning, giving Croft a belated opportunity to make an impression on the tour. Like Ramprakash, he did not spurn it. Croft bowled unchanged for almost four hours and, at one point, had taken six for 35.

By contrast, Philip Tufnell was ineffectual, worryingly so, considering he is the slow bowler in possession. During a fortnight of seam-dominated Test cricket in Trinidad, Tufnell performed a necessary defensive role. Now, given the conditions to attack and prosper, he did not respond and, if England use only one spinner in the fourth Test, his position can no longer be safe.

The other match-up of consequence saw Silverwood outbowl Cowan and emerge as the likeliest challenger for Caddick's precarious place. *All the bowlers, however,* briefly suffered some rough treatment as the tenth-wicket pair added a frolicking 49 to give the total some merit and the growing band of spectators some fun.

When Vishal Nagamotoo, the tiny wicketkeeper, completed his maiden half-century, a moment of slapstick ensued. A young local raced from the stand to offer congratulations, hugged the wrong batsman and then completed his retreat by vaulting the advertising hoardings and landing on his back in the dyke that borders the ground.

There was no such animation yesterday morning as England made a serene start to their reply. For 40 minutes, against the pace of King and Stuart, the opening pair were in complete command. King, watched by Wes Hall, the chairman of the West Indies selectors, rested, chastened, after four overs costing 23 and the advent of Neil McGarrell's left-arm spin transformed the session.

Butcher, looking to sweep, was leg-before for 13, a disappointment for one seeking to bat at No 3 in the next Test match. The present incumbent, Crawley, fared no better, perishing once more to a reluctance to assert himself. Relaxing his hands as he pushed half-forward to McGarrell, he simply played on.

Hussain's past three dismissals form a bizarre sequence — out to the seventh ball of an over, adjudged caught behind to a ball that he clearly missed and, finally, leg-before to an outrageous grubber. He failed again here, but more conventionally, leg-*before as he probed half-*forward to McGarrell's quicker ball.

The comfort of 32 without loss had eroded rapidly to 56 for four when Atherton, after two hours with scarcely a false stroke, thrust loosely outside off stump and was caught behind off the revived King. The crowd buzzed again and England sensed the indignity of a first-innings deficit.

Before lunch, when on three, Ramprakash survived a confident appeal for a close catch, but he then batted through the afternoon without offering a chance. His class was transparent by comparison with the more wooden approach of Hollioake, who was eventually another casualty of McGarrell's faster ball.

New Zealand stormed to a ten-wicket win over Zimbabwe on the fourth day of the first Test match in Wellington. New Zealand quickly knocked off the 20 runs required for victory after bowling Zimbabwe out for 250 in their second innings, with Chris Cairns, the all-rounder, taking four for 56. Murray Goodwin was the Zimbabwe top scorer with 72. The second Test starts in Auckland on Thursday.

GEORGETOWN SCOREBOARD

GUYANA: First Innings

C B Lambert c Atherton b Silverwood	4
N A de Groot c Russell b Croft	31
K F Semple lbw b Croft	19
R Serwan b Croft	10
*S Chanderpaul c Russell b Hollioake	28
T Dowlin c Cowan b Croft	1
N C McGarrell c Ramprakash b Croft	8
†V Nagamotoo b Silverwood	55
M V Nagamotoo c Russell b Croft	0
R D King c Atherton b Tufnell	0
C E L Stuart not out	11
Extras (b 9, w 1, nb 9)	19
Total	184

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-50, 3-67, 4-84, 5-91, 6-114, 7-118, 8-122, 9-135.
BOWLING: Cowan 10-3-18-0; Silverwood 15.2-1-45-2; Butcher 4-2-7-0; Tufnell 19-5-42-1; Croft 33-14-50-6; Ramprakash 1-1-0-0; Hollioake 5-1-13-1.

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton c V Nagamotoo b King	22
M A Butcher lbw b McGarrell	13
J P Crawley b McGarrell	10
N Hussain lbw b McGarrell	5
M R Ramprakash not out	43
A J Hollioake b McGarrell	35
†R C Russell not out	10
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 3, nb 1)	10
Total (5 wkts)	148

R D B Croft, A P Cowan, C E W Silverwood and P C R Tufnell to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-44, 3-58, 4-56, 5-131.
Umpires: P Monfort and E Hinds.

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT

Another disappointing innings by Crawley yesterday ends when he plays on. His Test place is now in doubt

England find it all too hot in the end

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND A slumped to a 41-run defeat in Matara on Saturday, losing the three-match one-day international series to Sri Lanka A 3-0 in a disappointing end to their *hastily revised tour.*

England were dismissed for 195 in reply to Sri Lanka's 236 for nine. Darren Maddy, of Leicestershire, the outstanding batsman of the eight-week tour, was the only player to reach fifty as England's last seven wickets fell for 97 runs in 24 overs.

Sri Lanka, after an aggressive start, had been restricted to 207 for seven with just three overs remaining as England produced a determined performance in the field. But late-order batsman Pubudu Dassanayake lifted his side by hitting 19 off nine deliveries, including 15 off the final over from Maddy. Ashley Giles underlined his emergence as Phil Tufnell's potential successor in the senior England side by claiming three for 34.

"We wanted to go out today and prove we were as good, if not better, than the Sri Lankans, but it hasn't worked out," Nick Knight, the captain, said. "We're not looking for any excuses, but this tour has been hard. We have had a lot of back-to-back A-team international cricket and, with the hot conditions out here as well, it has proved to be extremely demanding."

Terrorist attacks in Colombo and Kandy meant three four-day and three one-day internationals were contested in 22 days. England won the four-day series 2-0.

SRI LANKA A

U C Hathurusinghe c Hutchison b Maddy	51
A Gunawardene c Nash b Hutchison	25
R P Arnold b Giles	32
D R M Jayawardene b Giles	14
*R S Kalpage c Hutchison b Maddy	33
S Silva c James b Eatham	17
U D U Chandana c Shah b Cosker	18
R Pallivaguru lbw b Giles	3
†P B Dassanayake not out	19
N Bandaritilake run out	2
I Gallage not out	2
Extras (lb 5, w 13, nb 2)	20
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	236

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-108, 3-122, 4-131, 5-166, 6-199, 7-207, 8-211, 9-220.
BOWLING: Brown 8-1-38-0; Hutchison 3-1-26-1; Giles 10-0-34-3; Eatham 8-1-53-1; Maddy 9-0-52-2; Cosker 7-0-28-1.

ENGLAND A

S P James c Arnold b Chandana	39
*N V Knight c Gunawardene b Gallage	24
A Fordham c Jayawardene b Pallivaguru	4
O A Shah c Hathurusinghe b Chandana	11
D L Maddy c Hathurusinghe b Chandana	70
M A Eatham c Gunawardene b Chandana	0
A F Giles c Chandana b Jayawardene	26
D R Brown c Kalpage b Jayawardene	1
†D C Nash run out	0
D A Cosker not out	10
P M Hutchison c Gunawardene b Chandana	0
Extras (lb 7, w 2, nb 1)	10
Total (47 overs)	195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-48, 3-67, 4-98, 5-100, 6-161, 7-164, 8-165, 9-195.
BOWLING: Gallage 8-0-22-1; Pallivaguru 6-0-36-1; Bandaritilake 10-0-33-0; Chandana 10-0-46-5; Kalpage 7-0-29-0; Jayawardene 6-0-22-2.
Umpires: P Manuel and B C Cooray

Barmy army bats in the snow

Michael Henderson visits a most unusual British cricket setting

What occurred in St Moritz this weekend could be put down to a glee club of middle-aged, middle-class people behaving oddly. More charitably, it could be interpreted as a minor triumph for the benign influence of British civilisation. Through whatever prism it is glimpsed, a cricket tour to this rich man's playground is a delightfully batty venture.

As England's cricketers were preparing in the heat of Guyana for the fourth Test against West Indies, a hundred enthusiastic revellers were frolicking on the lake in St Moritz. By turn a cricket festival, an endurance test and a noisy reunion for an extended family of friends (including, on this occasion, a team of jolly Dutchmen), it is not a gathering for faint hearts.

The British have been playing cricket on the ice here for ten years, virtually next door to the Cresta Run. They play on a pitch of compressed snow and use a hard, red ball, but it would be stretching a point to call it proper cricket, not when the first ball of the *day, on Saturday, turned out* to be an orange, and not when a camera crew loiters at square leg.

Anthony Bouchier, a committee member and co-founder of St Moritz Cricket Club, with Simon Doggart, a schoolmaster of Eton, explained how it began. "At the time I worked for IMG, and we used to represent the Tourist Board here," he said.

"I saw there was polo and horse-racing on the ice and asked them, if we brought some cricketers over, would they help us? The first time we had ten people, and now we've got a party of a hundred, with about 60 cricketers. Many of them have played at a good amateur standard, and we have always invited along a few professionals."

Those who have accepted guest parts in previous years include David Gower, who famously abandoned his car when it sank into the lake, Allan Lamb, who conducted fielding practice with tomatoes, Paul Downton, Chris Cowdrey, Mark Nicholas and John Stephenson.

This year the professional cast-list featured three men *who are looking to make new* starts. Robin Smith has just taken over the captaincy of Hampshire, Jason Gallian has moved from Lancashire to Nottinghamshire and Ed Giddins, who has joined Warwickshire from Sussex, is about to complete the ban imposed on him two years ago for drug use.

Four years ago, when England were last in Guyana, Smith made 84 in their first innings. A month later he made his highest Test score, 175, in Antigua. But never before has he been entered in the scorebook, as he was last Friday, as "retired, too good". *In this cricket, played over 25* overs a side, a score of 35 is considered a batsman's "quota".

"Bouchier said St Moritz liked to promote itself as a "somewhat quirky resort". They like the tradition of Englishmen doing daft things, and cricket on the ice is about as mad as it gets.

"It is always an advantage to bat first," Bouchier said. "The pitch is crisp and frozen in the morning and later, *when the sun disappears and* the pitch re-freezes, the bounce can get very uneven. Mark Nicholas has said that he was hit on the head twice in his career, by Sylvester Clarke at the Oval, and by a Swiss Pakistani on the ice at St Moritz."

On another occasion Nick Cook, the former Leicestershire and Northamptonshire left-arm spinner, was hit for three successive sixes, the last of which landed in a snowdrift. Because St Moritz is such a busy resort, and a town of conspicuous wealth, if not obvious charm, Bouchier and chums begin their preparations six months before the tour. The highlight of the weekend is a formal dinner held in the imposing Carlton Hotel which, last Saturday, hosted a thrash of epic *proportions.*

The club has begun a summer programme in England, with fixtures at Eton and Wellington College, is taking a team to Amsterdam in September and hopes to visit Vail, Colorado, in 2000. By then its membership may have swelled to battalion size. It is certainly a well-heeled body, with the professions and the City thoroughly represented.

It inspires loyalty, too. Jervis Smith, a vice-president of Citibank, who provided a *rousing, bowdlerised version* of the *Marseillaise* that will not be heard in Paris on Bastille Day, returns to London today and, first thing tomorrow, he starts his new job in Manhattan.

BADMINTON

England on right path

ENGLAND have had little more than four months in which to show a return on the unprecedented riches of the £1 million one-year grant from lottery funding — yet the improvement in attitude and physical fitness was clear to see in Sandefjord, Norway, as the women qualified for the world team finals and the men narrowly missed out on Saturday (Richard Eaton writes).

The improvement in standard is not yet so obvious. The women, after a 3-2 victory over Sweden had been gifted them by a serious injury to Marina Andrievskaya, finished in second place in the Uber Cup European zone after losing 5-0 to Denmark, and the men, having won two of the three singles against Sweden, contrived to lose both doubles and fell to a 3-2 defeat.

All that stood between the men and joining the women in the finals was the tension that afflicted Simon Archer and Chris Hunt in their doubles, dragging them to an unexpected defeat by Peter Axelsson and Henrik Andersson.

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BASKETBALL

Burton finds life inhospitable

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

WHEN it comes to being good neighbours, Manchester Giants and Chester Jets have rarely seen eye-to-eye. Friction has been caused in the past by the transfers between the clubs involving Dave Gardner, John Tresvant and Jason Swaine. But in the past month it has been the two coaches who have fallen out, albeit not necessarily with each other.

It was Mike Burton's turn to leave the Nynex Arena seething after Chester's 89-73 defeat by the Giants on Saturday. It was not so much the manner of his team's loss, or the officiating, that upset Burton so much as the treatment that he received afterwards when he was turned away from the post-match reception.

On protesting that no one had given him a ticket, Burton was threatened with removal from the Arena. Suitably snubbed, he left on his own accord, saying: "We were well beaten but I've no comments to make about the hospitality."

Burton's opposite number, Jim Brandon, had watched Manchester's victory from the sidelines as he was starting a two-game ban arising from his insulting behaviour towards the officials after the previous game between the clubs. It was after their 82-78 loss at Chester a month ago that Brandon had incurred a three-game ban and £500 fine for abusing Richard Stokes and Steve Gottlieb as they left the court. On appeal, Brandon had his punishment reduced by one match, which was not quite enough for him to take charge on Saturday.

There was some satisfaction for Brandon when the Giants, coached by his assistant, David Lloyd, came out on top for the first time in this season's three Budweiser *League meetings* between the clubs. They were helped by 24 points apiece from Robert Churchwell and Brett Larrick. With the aid of Brian Lloyd's 22 points, the Jets were in contention until they were rocked by a late 17-2 onslaught.

Burton's problems piled up afterwards when he discovered that Ricardo Leonnard, his 6ft 9in centre, who returned from a knee operation the previous weekend, will miss the rest of the season with *stress fractures of both legs.*

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FA Carling Premiership: Rovers return from The Dell empty-handed as champions forge clear

Jones plans to build on top-level security

AT THE beginning of the season, as Southampton found points hard to come by, post-match press conferences with David Jones, the new manager, could often be depressing affairs. Now, with his team establishing themselves in the middle reaches of the FA Carling Premiership, thanks to a recent run that has included victories over Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United and, on Saturday, Blackburn Rovers, such get-togethers are more light-hearted occasions; the Scouse deadpan is leavened with quips and good-natured digs.

All of which is only natural, of course; but there must have been times early on when Jones doubted that these heady days would come. He would then, he admitted, readily have settled for the relatively dizzy heights that Southampton now occupy.

"I'd have been happy with that, yes; but now we're here, I want to be higher," Jones said. "At the beginning of the season, we didn't have enough quality players in the squad to compete in the Premiership, but since Carlton Palmer, David Hirst, Kevin Richardson and now John Beresford have come in and settled down, we're trying to add to that and be a force."

Time and again, Jones referred to the need to build a squad — a clear reference to recent paper talk linking his players with other clubs. "I don't want to sell anybody," he said. "I haven't come here just to survive. I'm an ambitious person and I want my players to be ambitious."

On Saturday, against a team whose aim for the top has, so far, been taken more seriously, Southampton's approach was ambitious on the pitch as well as off it. Both teams were without key players, but Blackburn appeared to miss Sutton and Henchoz more than the home side felt the absence of Monkou and Davies; Southampton's attacking trio of Le Tissier, Hirst and Ostenstad was far more aggressive than Blackburn's forward pairing of Kevin Gallacher and a ring-rusty Martin Dahlin.

No matter that there were doubts over their first two goals, Ostenstad looking offside as he rounded off the work of Hirst and Le Tissier to put the home side ahead after 19 minutes, and Colin Hendry claiming that he had been pushed as Hirst doubled the lead with an untypical right-foot shot 12 minutes from time; no matter that Paul Jones was forced to full-length saves from Dahlin, McKinlay and Sherwood, and that Blackburn had more than their share of possession.

Flowers, too, had to make one breathtaking save to block a pile-driver as Hirst ran on to Oakley's low cross, and Le Tissier, who has willingly joined his team-mates in extra training, was in the mood to impress the watching England manager, Glenn Hoddle.

The victory was well-deserved, as Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, conceded. "Their front players were very dangerous," he said. "When you lose at Southampton, it's not a great surprise, especially when they play well, albeit that it does leave a bitter taste when the first two goals would maybe not have been allowed on another day. The second goal killed us off and the third is one I'd rather forget." At the risk of stirring unpleasant memories, that was when Ostenstad ran unchallenged on to a long through-pass and rounded Flowers before scoring.

Hodgson also had to be reminded where his team's last point had come from, and acknowledged that "11 points behind Manchester United suggests that it's going to take some sort of miracle for us to overtake them". A word with Jones on the subject of revivals might be handy; the win on Saturday was an effective response to a rare below-par performance in the 2-1 home defeat by Coventry City three days earlier.

"We needed to bounce back straightaway, and we've done that," Jones said. "We got what we deserved, and it was probably us at our best. We shut them down all over the pitch and rode our luck — and played some really good football when we were allowed to."

SOUTHAMPTON 3
BLACKBURN ROVERS 0

By Nick Szczepanik

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson (sub: D Hughes, 80min), M Oakley — M Le Tissier — D Hirst, E Ostenstad

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, C Hendry, M Broomes, G Croft — G Fitzroit (sub: S Ripley, 69), T Sherwood, W McKinlay, D Duff — M Dahlin (sub: J Beattie, 69), K Gallacher

Referee: U Rennie

PETER POWELL

Giggs, who later limped off with a hamstring injury, is pulled back by Delap, bringing the second-half penalty that Irwin converted

United rediscover cruise control

JIM SMITH has a splendid, blunt, Northern edge to his humour, which was deployed theatrically after his side's defeat at Manchester United. Yes, he said, of course United could be caught at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. But asked if he thought they would be caught, the pause and roll of the eyes was merely for comic effect. "No."

The leaders are theoretically only three points clear of Arsenal, should their nearest pursuers win two games in hand. Yet this performance against Derby County merely added to the growing feeling that United are cantering towards their third championship title in a row.

They did not play well, even Alex Ferguson, the United manager, admitted that much. They simply ground Derby down, a compelling defensive performance underpinning a merely competent attacking display.

As Ferguson said, it was not the quality of his side's display that impressed, but the irresistible nature of it. "It was not a great performance, but we never looked like conceding a goal," he said.

It is this ability to win difficult matches without getting into top gear that makes United such overwhelming favourites for the title. And it is the defence, so assured, so difficult to pass, that makes this possible. When you enter every game believing that you will keep a clean sheet, it helps.

Gary Pallister is the heartbeat of the defence. His composure in stifling the sprightly spirit of Paulo Wanchope was a study in the art of defending. Given the paucity of defensive talent available to England, quite how Glenn Hoddle can continue to ignore Pallister's claims is a mystery of Poirot dimensions.

Adams looks diminished and Campbell is clearly not of international standard. Pallister, on the other hand, has matured into the genuine article. It is the absence of a player of his authority which has undermined the challenge of both Liverpool and Chelsea, and Ferguson recognises this.

"He is playing as well as ever," Ferguson said. "We look solid, which is reassuring. We had a bit of a bad run, but I think I did the right thing, because we needed to get players fit by giving them a game, and we are still ahead of the rest. The other results have gone for us." Pallister was exposed only once, in the sixth minute, when a brilliant defence-splitting pass allowed Wanchope to power beyond his marker, but the Costa Rican was off-balance, and could not get enough purchase in his shooting opportunity.

It was a miss that Derby were to rue. Barely ten minutes later, and with the home side labouring, a sudden burst of acceleration on the right took Cole clear, and his cross found Giggs galloping to the back post. His sliding half-volley finish was technically perfect.

It was Giggs's pace that fatally undermined Derby in the second half. As he has matured, the Welshman has found an intelligence to add to his dashing play, and the visitors could never deal with his running from deep. It brought the second goal, after 71 minutes, when he darted on to a Cole flick, only to be pulled back by Delap.

Perhaps the funniest moment of the afternoon, Smith's press conference apart, came as the Old Trafford crowd realised it was to be Denis Irwin and not Teddy Sheringham taking the penalty kick. The resulting cheer was louder than that which greeted the Irishman's successful conversion.

Not so amusing was the hamstring injury that Giggs suffered soon afterwards. If Ferguson is to be believed, then the winger will miss United's visit to Monaco in the first leg of the European Cup quarter-finals.

Given that Cole appears to have succumbed once more to the self-doubt that plagues him, Giggs's creative influence is vital. Ferguson, though, has a record of misinformation before important matches and United supporters will be hoping that it turns out to have been another of his ploys.

MANCHESTER UNITED 2
DERBY COUNTY 0

By David Maddock

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister, D Irwin (sub: M Clegg, 74min) — D Beckham, N Butt, P Neville, R Giggs (sub: B McClair, 77) — A Cole (sub: J Cruyff, 74), E Sheringham.

DERBY COUNTY (5-2-3): M Poom — R Delap (sub: R Willems, 88), G Rowett, I Stimac, C Deilly, C Powell — S Eranio, L Carsley — D Sturridge, F Baiano, P Wanchope.

Referee: M Reed.

Arsenal dig deep and find hidden resources

ARSENAL 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 0

By Peter Robinson

IT IS curious how quickly people's opinions can change. Cocooned in a quiet corner of the East Stand at Highbury on Saturday, a little cabal pondered the plight of Arsenal. The wounds of defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup were still fresh, the team-sheet in front of them arguably the weakest submitted by the grand old club in years.

"What has Wenger done, really, that Bruce Rioch couldn't, except bring in a load of foreigners?" Heads nodded. It was meant to be a rhetorical question. Nobody expected an answer before teatime.

Yet they got one, a goal from Gilles Grimandi, one of those foreigners, that lifted Arsenal to second place in the FA Carling Premiership. A good goal, too, a high, looping volley after 49 minutes that dropped deliberately into the far corner of the net and was worthy of winning any game, even one as modest as this. It was Grimandi's first for the club. He does not expect to get any more this season — although you will not find Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, complaining about that.

Wenger wore the smile of a relieved, vindicated man on Saturday evening. Grimandi had struggled after joining the club, with Emmanuel Petit, from AS Monaco and occasional slips had led to catcalls from the crowd, but here he was, responding to a crisis, playing through the pain of a groin injury to score the winner before a packed Highbury. Vindication for the studious chap with the Arsenal tie.

"Grimandi and Petit came together; they are both multi-functional players and for me it was the perfect deal," Wenger said, preening. "Grimandi can play in several positions, anywhere in defence, even in midfield in a defensive role. They were exactly what I was looking for." Squad players, in other words, the kind of fill-in-without-a-fuss types that all successful teams need.

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And how Arsenal needed Grimandi on Saturday. With an entire first XI absent, Wenger cobbled together what he could. Bergkamp had flu, Seaman, Bould, Winterburn, Petit, Parlour, Wright, Marshall and Garde were all injured, Overmars on international duty and Adams and Wreh suspended. Jamie Day, a youth-team player, was on the bench. Seven players aged 21 or under were on the field. Wenger crossed his fingers and hoped for the best. Perhaps Arsenal could escape from this with a draw.

He need not have worried. This may have been Palace's big chance of winning at Highbury, but they blew it, their lack of quality grotesquely exposed. Even if they gain a measure of revenge on Wednesday, when the sides meet for the third time in ten days in an FA Cup replay, it will be a hollow win, earning exactly nul points. Relegation looms ever larger.

Meanwhile, Arsenal, much to Wenger's surprise, are chasing the championship again. Defeat, he conceded, would have been almost terminal, but instead they are nine points behind Manchester United with two games in hand.

"I am happy we gave those young players experience in the Coca-Cola Cup because it is paying off now," he said. "They are not scared, they know they can win these games. We have some long-term injuries and we need all our players back, but perhaps they will be fresh for the final games." Add a new signing or two and the implication was that Arsenal's ageing and ailing team may still rouse itself for a sprint to the championship finish.

ARSENAL (4-3-2-1): A Manninger — L Dixon, M Keown, G Grimandi, M Upson — P Vieira, S Hughes — D Platt, L Boa Morte — N Anelka.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — V Ismael, M Edworthy, H Hreidarsson — J Smith (sub: M Bent, 66), J Fullarton, A Roberts, S Rodger, D Gordon — B Dyer (sub: D Tuttle, 77), T Brolin.

Referee: J Winter.

Leaburn spares the blushes

CARL LEABURN keeps doing it — scoring, that is, ever since he achieved his ambition to play in the FA Carling Premiership. After leaving Charlton Athletic, where he seemed sometimes to go eons without a goal, he has been scoring ad lib. Against Villa, he not only claimed one, he made the other.

Having cost Wimbledon a mere £150,000, with another £100,000 to come, he represents quite a bargain for Joe Kinnear, their manager, the kind of deal that he can enjoy on days when he is less successful. Last week, for example, he travelled to Paris to watch a couple of Metz players. It was a wasted journey — "Mogadon," he called it — and he was asked to stump up £4 million, double what he had expected, for the players who might have interested him.

Leaburn also overshadowed a slip-up that might, on another day, have proved costly. Michael Hughes is very much the brains of the Wimbledon team and he should have been playing on Saturday — and would have been had not a member of the club's staff confused him with Ceri Hughes.

Convinced that it was Michael, of Northern Ireland, rather than Ceri, of Wales, who had been substituted in an earlier Premiership game, Wimbledon failed to demand in time remission for good behaviour that would have cut Michael Hughes's suspension from two games to one. The request was submitted three days too late. Kinnear said cheerfully that even without Michael Hughes, Wimbledon had not lost their past couple of games, but they miss him.

Wimbledon's fortune — and Villa's misfortune — was that Savo Milosevic, that contentious, ultra-left-footed Yugoslavia striker, had to withdraw from this match after 56 minutes, the victim of a harsh tackle by Jupp that earned the defender, standing in for Kenny Cunningham, a yellow card. Milosevic not only suffered a dead leg, but also injured medial ligaments, which may put him out for at least two weeks.

Until then, he had been the best hope that Villa had of scoring goals. Indeed, it was his shot just before the interval, violently deflected off Perry, that had put Villa back in the game. You might say, in theatrical parlance, that, for all his recent troubles, his performance at Selhurst Park was much more than just a spit and a cough.

Nevertheless, Brian Little, the Villa manager, speaking with his usual weary resignation, said that Milosevic will be leaving the club at the end of the season. The injury, Little added, "didn't positively help us, because he was very bright and sharp. I thought the biggest thing today was our confidence. There were good players out there not putting their foot on the ball."

Wimbledon led after just ten minutes, an extraordinary cross from the right by Jones that seemed sure to drift out suddenly changing direction like a ball bowled by Shane Warne. Leaburn flicked on from the near post, Jason Euell scored. The second goal, just before Milosevic's, again came from a right-wing cross. Leaburn to Fear, a centre from Ardley, which Scimeca should have cut out, then the ball returned by Gayle for Leaburn to head in.

In the second half, Kinnear put the resilient Jones in front of his back four and was content just to keep Villa at bay. Even then, after 88 minutes, Ardley's fine long ball gave Euell the chance for another crack at goal, which Bosnich saved.

WIMBLEDON 2
ASTON VILLA 1

By Brian Glanville

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — D Jupp (sub: S Solbakken, 53min), D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher — N Ardley, P Fear, V Jones, M Gayle (sub: C Cort, 73) — S Leaburn, J Euell

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Bosnich — R Scimeca, L Ehiogu, G Southgate, A Wright — J Joachim, I Taylor, S Grayson, F Nelson (sub: D Byfield, 68) — S Milosevic (sub: L Hendrie, 56), S Collymore

Referee: G Ashby

Berkovic plays double role

EYAL BERKOVIC is all things to all men. On an average Saturday afternoon he enjoys reverence from one set of supporters and endures ill-will from the other. This was not your average Saturday, however. To say that Berkovic influenced the outcome is to understate his role.

He was the architect of a marvellous West Ham United goal, and his role in the late equaliser by Bolton Wanderers was only marginally less integral. Hailed by the Bolton fans, cursed by the travelling contingent — a most unpredictable reversal of fortune.

West Ham led 1-0 with five minutes remaining when Lampard broke through to shoot from close range, only for Branagan to parry away the effort. Berkovic accepted the loose ball, took it around the goalkeeper, looked up and saw an empty net. Then he screwed his effort into the side-netting.

There are moments in life when time appears to stop. For Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, the moment when Berkovic drew back his right foot and prepared to seal victory will be forever freeze-framed. What followed, in contrast, was a blur. Perhaps he blinked and missed the goalkick finding its way to Gunnlaugsson, a substitute, on the left wing and Blake heading in the subsequent cross.

"We missed the chance of a lifetime and suddenly from being all over it was one-all," Redknapp said. "At half-time I thought all three points were there for the taking as long as we went about it the right way."

Evidence certainly supported his vision. Although Holdsworth forced the ball over the line in the second minute, only to be adjudged offside, the visitors carried a far greater, more imaginative, threat pushing forward. Bolton's anxiety reflected their position in the bottom three.

This became more apparent still after the dismissal of John Hartson in the 55th minute for swinging an arm at Frandsen when the pair jostled under a goalkick by Forrest. Redknapp declined afterwards to defend his striker.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, described his side as naive. "The savvy was not good enough. We thought we could bomb forward against the ten men, and you just cannot do that," he said. Bolton were caught on the break just ten minutes after Hartson's dismissal. Berkovic collected the ball deep in his own half and ran 60 yards, imploring Sinclair to break ahead before passing into his stride. Sinclair cut inside Fairclough and slipped his shot between Branagan and the near post.

Thompson inexplicably failed to turn in a cross from Blake from six yards and Johansen drove narrowly wide as the home side surged forward. Yet the lesson of the Sinclair goal went unheeded. Berkovic's late miss will remain long in the memory, but Lampard, too, squandered a chance to double the advantage in the 82nd minute. Both managers felt that they lost two points rather than gained one.

Todd is adamant his side can be a force at this level if they survive the present campaign. A big "if" depends on Blake and Holdsworth developing together up front.

West Ham, after just a third draw of the season, remain one of four clubs below the top five challenging for a European place. "We have a lot of home games coming up, but to lose Hartson for three games is a blow," Redknapp said.

BOLTON WANDERERS 1
WEST HAM UNITED 1

By Richard Hobson

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — N Cox, A Todd, C Fairclough (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 74min), G Bergsson — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, M Johansen — N Blake, D Holdsworth

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): C Forrest — J Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — A Impey, F Lampard, J Moncur, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — J Hartson, T Sinclair.

Referee: P Alcock.

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7/1	2-0	20/1	LIVERPOOL	DRAW	14/1	4/1 OWEN (L)
15/2	2-1	14/1	LIVERPOOL	EVERTON	40/1	6/1 RIEDLE (L)
11/1	3-0	50/1	DRAW	LIVERPOOL	4/1	13/2 FERGUSON (E)
11/1	3-1	40/1	DRAW	DRAW	4/1	15/2 MADAR (E)
25/1	3-2	33/1	DRAW	EVERTON	9/1	15/2 McMANAMAN (L)
8/1	0-0	8/1	EVERTON	LIVERPOOL	25/1	16/1 INCE (L)
11/2	1-1	11/2	EVERTON	DRAW	14/1	16/1 OSTER (E)
14/1	2-2	14/1	EVERTON	EVERTON	7/1	20/1 GRANT (E)
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Oliver Holt

Duncan Ferguson, so often the scourge of Liverpool in recent years, is likely to be on his mettle again at Anfield tonight as Everton try to drag themselves away from the foot of the FA Carling Premiership by extending their hold over their neighbours in derby matches.

Liverpool have not won a clash with their rivals for four years now despite a consistently higher league position, and this will be Ferguson's last chance to shine before his suspension for being sent off against Derby County ten days ago comes into operation.

Liverpool, who are now ten points behind Manchester United at the top of the table, are in dire need of a win after their dispiriting Coca-Cola Cup semi-final defeat to Middlesbrough last week. They may use Karlheinz Riedle in attack instead of the struggling Robbie Fowler and there could also be a first start in goal for Brad Friedel.

LIVERPOOL
v
EVERTON
Today, 8.0

LIVERPOOL (probable; 4-4-2): D James — R Jones, B T Kvarme, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye — S McManaman, J Carragher, P Ince, C Leonhardsen — R Fowler, M Owen.

EVERTON (probable; 3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, C Tiler, S Barmby — M Ward, G Farrelly, D Williamson, J Oster, T Phelan — D Cadamarteri, D Ferguson.

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports, from 7pm.

PREDICTION: Liverpool to end derby run with a win.

هكذا من الأصل

forge clear

Arsenal di deep and find hidde resources

ARSENAL 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 0
By Peter Robinson

FA Carling Premiership: Ketsbaia strikes to offer evidence of Tyneside revival in stalemate

Martyn's mistake gifts point for Newcastle

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
LEEDS UNITED 1
By David Maddock

OWEN HUMPHREYS

Shearer, left, tries to open the scoring in the first half at St James' Park yesterday, but is denied by an acrobatic save by Martyn, the Leeds United goalkeeper

THIS concept of footballing reincarnation is interesting. Just as George Graham, with an intelligent and subtle spin of his image, has reinvented himself, so were Newcastle United transformed yesterday from the side that had embarrassed Kenny Dalglish at Elland Road earlier in the season.

A goal two minutes from time by Temuri Ketsbaia, that most excitable of substitutes, gave the home side a deserved draw against Leeds United, even as it appeared that Newcastle were dead and buried. It was only a point and they have won just two of their past 13 league games, but this performance represented progress, a distance travelled from that 4-1 humiliation served up by the same opponents in Yorkshire in October.

Newcastle have wandered dangerously close to the relegation zone at the wrong end of the FA Carling Premiership, but, if their record since Christmas suggests that they will remain there, then this performance does not. Now, at last, Dalglish, the manager, has constructed a side that has menace and, when Alan Shearer returns to full fitness, they will be a match once more for the best.

As it was, it took a fluke from Ketsbaia to deny Leeds victory. There were no tears this time, but the message to his manager was equally emphatic as on that memorable occasion in January when, again as a substitute, he earned victory over Bolton Wanderers in the dying seconds. The Georgian is fed up with being on the bench and every goal screams that frustration at his manager.

Ketsbaia was again a helpless observer when Leeds took the lead — and appeared to have wrapped up the match — with only seven minutes remaining. Only then did Dalglish recognise the plaintive cries from the stands and throw the player on as a seemingly desperate final gamble. It worked within 60 seconds. Smuggling the ball on to his left foot, 20 yards from goal, it was not the cleanest of shots and Nigel Martyn fell easily enough towards the bobbling ball — but somehow, comically, it continued under the goalkeeper's body for the softest of goals.

It seemed cruel, after a fine performance by the England man, but Graham displayed no such charity. "He made some good saves, but we can blame him for costing us the match because he made a mistake. If he doesn't hold his hand up, then I'll hold it up for him."

The Leeds manager's frustration was understandable. He has created something of a silk purse from the sow's ear that he inherited from Howard Wilkinson at Elland Road and, in doing so, has altered the time-honoured perception of his own approach to the game. Leeds still place great emphasis on the virtues of determined defence — and the performance of Molenaar in subduing Shearer was straight from the old Graham scrapbook — but they were swift and imaginative on the break and, but for the agility of Given in the Newcastle goal, would have slipped away from the North East with a decent victory.

The Ireland international denied Ribeiro deep into injury time with an arching save, when the little midfield player darted into the penalty area and delivered a wonderful, curling left-foot shot that appeared, for all the world, to be heading for the far corner. Earlier in the half, Given had denied Wallace with a reflex push on to a post and dropped on to a free kick from Hasselbaink that had the visiting Leeds supporters holding their heads in wistful reflection.

"I thought that we looked excellent on the break, very sharp and creative. Given made some fine saves to deny us," Graham said.

The Leeds manager though, was far less generous when considering the performance of Shearer. "It was embarrassing," he said. "I thought we should have had three or four penalties, because every time he marked Hasselbaink at corners, it was almost an assault. I just don't know how the referee didn't see it."

It is the pace and movement of Hasselbaink and Wallace that has allowed Graham to leave behind his artisan's approach. Twice, Hasselbaink drifted wide to create openings in the first half, the first a cross from Ribeiro after 22 minutes that Wallace should have converted. On a second occasion, Kewell got free at the far post, only to direct his header wide.

It was a combination that the Newcastle defence never came to terms with and finally, with a simple beauty, it produced a goal. Hasselbaink, with balletic movement, juggled free on the left and ran to the byline to cross for Wallace. This time the little forward made no mistake, his blistering first-time shot screaming into the net.

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Ketsbaia's late intervention prevented the goal from providing a certain injustice, because Newcastle created chances with some swift, breaking football of their own, particularly in the first half. The best fell to Shearer and clearly he has yet to find the full fitness that will bring an edge to his game. He still dominated Wetherall, his early marker, but, when the flickering Andersson sprung the offside trap to allow Shearer a close-range chance after 19 minutes, Martyn made a fine, fingertips push on to the crossbar when normally he would not have even seen the ball.

The Leeds goalkeeper produced an even better save in the second half, when Shearer again got free, only to see his downward header somehow pushed over the bar. "I was so pleased with our performance, we are getting better and better," Dalglish said, with his usual simplicity, afterwards.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — A Hughes (sub: P Albert, 87min), S Howey, S Pearce, A Pistone — F Gillespie (sub: T Ketsbaia, 87min), R Lee, D Batty, G Speed — A Shearer, A Andersson.
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — A Mayburry, R Molenaar, D Wetherall, G Halle — G Kelly, A Haaland, B Ribeiro, H Kewell — R Wallace, J Hasselbaink.
Referee: G Willard

Vialli's managerial honeymoon cut short by Heskey

Vialli: champagne glasses out of sight at Filbert Street

LEICESTER CITY 2
CHELSEA 0
By Keith Pike

WHEN Gianluca Vialli orders Moet & Chandon he is not splashing out on another pair of French defenders, but there were no glasses raised at Filbert Street on Saturday, before or after the match. Champagne football one moment, brown ale the next, the fickle fingers of managerial fate certainly wasted no time in poking the Italian painfully in the eye.

This pretty feeble effort by Chelsea seemed certain to have the follicularly challenged one metaphorically tearing his hair out. Not so. Vialli might be new to the game, but he has already seen life through blue-tinted spectacles. "I thought we were outstanding in the second half," he ventured. Chelsea had stepped up a gear, admittedly, but the neutral would say only from poor to moderate.

Indeed, three days after reaching Wembley with a performance brimful of purpose and conviction, fluency and fortitude, Chelsea reverted to the type of lacklustre and limited display that characterised the closing weeks of Ruud Gullit's reign, and were fairly rewarded with a defeat that all but rules them out of contention for the FA Carling Premiership. "On paper they are one of the best teams in the world," Emile Heskey, who punished their lethargy with both Leicester City goals, said, "but ..." His unfinished sentence spoke volumes.

Vialli was half-inclined to blame the midweek Coca-Cola Cup exertions ("I am not too worried about this defeat because it was due to the great effort and commitment against Arsenal") and half-inclined not to ("I think we should be physically good enough to play two matches in so a short time"). Clearly, it was only reasonable to expect some sort of drop in the level of performance, but the scale of it must have worried the player-manager.

Barring an enforced change in goal, this was the same team that had pulverised Arsenal, but Chelsea were unrecognisable: no great passion, scarcely any movement off the ball, little attacking wit. All they brought to the afternoon was a certain amount of tetchiness — Hughes, Wise and Di Matteo have now been cautioned 22 times between them in the league this season — and the impressive Leboeuf, at once their best defender and most likely goalscorer.

The C-word bothering Vialli now is consistency. The championship, he concedes, is probably out of reach — *if* Chelsea win their game in hand *and* beat Manchester United on Saturday they will still be five points behind the team that thrashed them in the FA Cup. "To come first would be unbelievable," he said. "But even if you come second, you can play in the Champions' League."

This rather quaint — some would say ludicrous — notion appealed to him rather more than the verbal assault by Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who had claimed that Chelsea were no more than a bunch of kickers and divers (Mr Pot, can I introduce you to Mr Kettle). Vialli cleaned up on quote of the day with "I think that Mr Wenger lost a great opportunity to shut up." It was the only thing Chelsea won all afternoon.

Vialli's first league game in charge, his first defeat and his carefully chosen words about Wenger will inevitably deprive Leicester of the credit they deserve for an outstanding day's work. Their discipline never wavered, their work-rate never faltered, and they are unbeaten since Boxing Day. Consistency? They could teach Chelsea a thing or two.

Leicester's match winner was Heskey, with goals two minutes after the start and two minutes from the end, his first since October. Both were scored from close range, neither owed much to a supreme talent, but they were the least reward that scorer and team deserved.

Eclipsing him, though, was Elliott, a colossus at the heart of the Leicester defence. With Chelsea playing three up against three at the back, Elliott's strength and sure-footedness were given a thorough testing, and he never looked like failing.

"It is his first full season in the Premiership and he is already up there with Pallister, Adams and Hendry," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager said. "I cannot praise him any higher than that."

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): P Arphexad — S Prior, M Elliott, P Izzet (sub: S Campbell, 81min) — F Sinclair (sub: S Walsh, 25), M Lennon, T Lagonda, M Ekoku, S Guppy — A Comrie (sub: G Poyton, 46) E Heskey.
CHELSEA (4-3-3): D Phillips — S Clarke, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, D Wise, R Di Matteo — G Zola (sub: T A Flo, 71), G Vialli, M Hughes.
Referee: P Durkin.

Heskey: punished Chelsea's lethargy with double strike

Dublin dominates centre stage

COVENTRY CITY 1
BARNSLEY 0
By David Powell

DION DUBLIN is to be chosen for the England World Cup squad, it will be days like this, when he was both versatile and effective, which persuade Glenn Hoddle to include him. Dublin wore three hats on Saturday: centre back, centre forward, centre of controversy. Each time his hat stayed on.

Dublin's last-minute penalty winner came, ironically, the day after it was revealed that three Barnsley MPs had taken out an early day motion in Parliament, criticising a referee over a penalty decision and calling for the use of technology to help officials. In successive matches now, Barnsley feel they have been hard done by.

The Yorkshire club faces an FA Cup replay with Manchester United after a penalty which Mike Riley failed to spot and so was not given. Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, was adamant that Dublin had not been fouled here. "We have worked our tails off, in a disciplined manner, then we lose by the decision of the referee."

Once he had said his piece, adding that Peter Markstedt, the defender judged to have fouled Dublin, had denied doing so, Wilson demonstrated good humour in adversity. "If last week's [penalty incident] has been motioned, this week's will get on Question Time," he said.

Dublin was tidily going about his business at the heart of the Coventry City defence as crisis loomed. Coventry, seeking a club record sixth successive victory, could not break down the most porous defence in the FA Carling Premiership.

For a manager prepared to risk one point for three, the next play was obvious. Gordon Strachan summoned Marcus Hall from the bench, rearranged his back four, and sent Dublin into attack to replace Moldovan, Coventry's club record purchase at £3.25 million. Within seconds, Dublin was unsettling a Barnsley defence that had made Moldovan look a waste of money. Markstedt brought him down close to the edge of the penalty area, though clearly outside. There would be no such simplicity about their later clash — when the pair contested a free kick by Burrows. Markstedt was ruled to have used his arms on the Coventry man.

Dublin: last-minute penalty winner

"I have asked the lad and he said it is absolute nonsense," Wilson said. "I tend to agree with him. Dion has hit the deck like he has been hit by a sledgehammer."

Were English players being influenced by the play-acting of overseas footballers? "If it had been a foreign boy who did that, everybody would be up in arms," Wilson responded.

Dublin denied diving and television replays were inconclusive. Strachan was asked for his view. "You want me to comment about referees?", he replied, saying nothing about it being a definite penalty.

Strachan, too, was in good humour. Having heard that he may face FA disciplinary action for allegedly swearing at Southampton supporters, he said: "I have put a complaint into the Hampshire Constabulary at David Burrows for swearing at me."

Dublin's all-round skills have impressed Wilson who, when he saw the Coventry team-sheet, noted: "I was not delighted he was at the back, but I was happy he was not up front."

This was a poor match, error-strewn, enlivened before its dramatic climax only by the agonies of Huckerby, who wasted possession and squandered chances. "Not a classic," Wilson concluded. "It could have sent one or two people asleep." One was tempted to ask whether he thought the referee was one of those people.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, D Dublin, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt (sub: Gavin Strachen, 77min), N Whelan — D Huckerby, V Moldovan (sub: M Hall, 68)
BARNSLEY (4-4-2): D Watson — N Eaden, A Moses, P Markstedt, S Jones — M Bullock (sub: C Marcelle, 79), N Redfearn, J Bosancic, D Shenden (sub: G Hinstov, 90) — A Ward, J A Fjortoft (sub: J Hendrie, 70).
Referee: A Wilkie

Di Canio shows Ginola the way

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
By Bill Edgar

THESE clubs have many similarities. Both rich enough to feel frustrated at their seven-year wait for a trophy, they responded to poor starts this season by sacking their managers in November. Now their hopes of avoiding relegation from the FA Carling Premiership rest in no small measure on the shoulders of a maverick continental forward.

On Saturday, however, the difference was that while Paolo di Canio's flicks and tricks came off for Sheffield Wednesday, those of David Ginola generally did not for Tottenham Hotspur.

As well as poaching his twelfth goal of the season in the 33rd minute, Di Canio featured prominently in most of Wednesday's delightful one-touch build-ups, helping to set up chances for Petter Rudi, twice, Mark Pembridge and Ian Nolan.

But Nolan's near-miss was forgotten shortly before half-time when a 50-50 tackle with Justin Edinburgh left the Wednesday defender with a double leg fracture and the prospect of ten months out of action. The outcome of a work permit application for Goce Sedloski, the Macedonia defender who was signed last week by the Hillsborough manager, Ron Atkinson, will now be awaited even more keenly.

The Wednesday defence has tightened considerably since Atkinson replaced David Pleat, who is now Tottenham's director of football. After his sacking, which came two weeks before the dismissal of Gerry Francis as Tottenham manager, Pleat said: "It is too easy to change the manager and ignore the consequences."

While Spurs have slipped a place to seventeenth since Christian Gross arrived as coach, the consequences for Wednesday have been a remarkable rise from bottom to twelfth. As Atkinson said: "We've got 25 points out of the last 14 games and, if you went at that rate for the whole season, you'd be looking at a top five or six position."

In his defence, Pleat had insisted the absence of "gritty" players such as Peter Atherton and Graham Hyde through injury was crucial. The pair returned soon after Pleat left and their midfield influence was clear in the first half against Tottenham.

Ginola: most flicks and tricks failed

Hyde's tenacity also featured in the goal. He forced his way past Edinburgh and, when his cross was cleared to Rudi, the Norwegian's shot was deflected into the path of Di Canio, who slotted the ball home from ten yards.

Tottenham's second-half recovery, in which Ginola belatedly got into the game, coincided with the substitution of Hyde and Atherton's switch to Nolan's right-back position.

Des Walker, whose own-goal gave Tottenham that FA Cup triumph in 1991, did them no favours this time. Atkinson said: "Des was different class. He's a better player than I thought he was." Not that Walker was tested in a first half in which Gross admitted that Spurs had been playing for a draw.

"It was our aim to take one point and we were disappointed. We were obliged to attack in the second half," Gross, who saw Chris Armstrong hit a post in injury time, said. He added that none of his eight injured players will return against Bolton Wanderers next weekend.

Atkinson, recalling the knee injury that will keep Niclas Alexandersson, a recent signing, out until next season, said: "We've now got two players who have not missed a game in their careers and they are going to be out for some time." What was that about similarities with Tottenham?

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2): K Pressman — J Nolan (sub: S Oakes, 37min), J Newsome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — G Hyde (sub: J Magilton, 72), P Atherton, M Pembridge (sub: D Stefanovic, 89) — P Rudi — P di Canio, B Carbone
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): E Baardsen — S Carr, C Calderwood, S Campbell, J Edinburgh (sub: J Dominguez, 78) — R Fox, N Berti (sub: G Brady, 63), D Howells, A Nielsen — C Armstrong, D Ginola.
Referee: M Bodenham.

FOOTBALL: SUCCESS OF HEARTS OFFERS STARK CONTRAST TO RIVALS' WOE

Hibernian struggle to keep their place among the elite

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

WHEN Lex Gold, the Hibernian chairman, was still spokesman for the secessionary Scottish Premiership, which is intended to begin next season, the satirists joked that his club had a breakaway of its own in progress. The gag looks increasingly doleful — and accurate. Hibernian may have to pack up their belongings and wave goodbye to familiar surroundings. Relegation is probable.

On Saturday, a whacking drive from Jorg Albertz in the 87th minute cleared Bryan Gunn, the goalkeeper, and dipped into the net to give Rangers a 2-1 victory at Easter Road. Hibernian are at the foot of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, five points behind Motherwell, and must be running out of hope as well as games.

Eleven fixtures remain, but three are against the Old Firm, including the home match against Celtic next weekend. The schedule contains an Edinburgh derby as well, an occasion that has frequently turned out to be a deep reservoir of grief for Hibernian.

Yet, to their credit, there was nothing maudlin about the players in their most recent defeat. With Alex Cleland, the Rangers full back, controversially sent off, Hibernian appeared ready to win the game in the closing stages, but were thwarted by the virtuosity of Andy Goram, the visitors' goalkeeper. There was evidence that Alex McLeish, the new manager, is trying to ensure his side at least gives spikier performances. Indeed, his activities last week offered a succinct summary of his thoughts. A goalkeeper, Gunn, was signed and Chic Charnley, a midfield maverick, given a free transfer.

The chagrin of the Easter Road crowd grows all the greater because Heart of Midlothian are enjoying so pugnacious a season. The Tynecastle side continue to share the lead in the premier division. Albertz might have snatched victory for Rangers and Harald Brattbakk may have scored all the goals for Celtic in a 4-0 win over Kilmarnock, but Hearts kept their share of headlines with a 4-2 win at Motherwell, achieved after falling 2-0 behind. The previous visitors to Fir Park in the League were Hibernian and they were beaten 6-2.

Easter Road regulars do not require any further reminders of the discrepancies in the Edinburgh rivalry at present, but, in superficial respects that have had no bearing on league position, the clubs do possess a resemblance to one another. Each has carried out extensive ground redevelopment and each is tightly restrained in the transfer market.

However, where Hearts have manipulated the post-Bosman market in players to build a good squad, Hibernian have dealt in shop-soiled goods. Worse, despite the dubious nature of the merchandise, they have kept on shopping. Their sickly condition is the result of a surfeit of thrift.

Each particular purchase may have looked prudent, but the cumulative result has been large and futile expense. Since the beginning of last season, there have been four managers at Hibernian and all have brought fresh faces to the club. The outcome is a staff of 51 players noteworthy only for the amount of space it takes up in football reference books.

It is a wonder that Hibernian do not require crowd control stewards when that horde arrives en masse for training in the morning. Gold, who became chairman last summer, recognises the problem. He only had to run his eye down and down the payroll to know how extensive is the club's commitment to inadequate players. There have been frequent admissions of the need for the emphasis to switch from quantity to quality.

McLeish has limited means at his disposal and he must not use them as his recent predecessors have done. If Hibernian can find bidders, it would be better to sell a whole batch of players and husband the resources to make one, expensive signing whose pedigree is already established. The aim will be difficult to achieve. The reconstruction of Hibernian could prove a more perplexing task than the creation of the breakaway league.

DAVID CHESKIN

Brattbakk, the Celtic striker, celebrates one of his four goals that demolished Kilmarnock

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Payback time no problem for Case

Hayes 2
Bashley 0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE first swing of his right boot sent the ball 40 yards into the path of his left wing. When you have won European Cups, and league championships, the touch never goes even if your next birthday, in May, is your 44th.

The arrival of Jimmy Case, the Bashley player-manager, forced by injuries to don the gold No 15 shirt, clearly lifted his side as they trailed 1-0 to Hayes in the FA Umbro Trophy third-round tie at Church Road on Saturday.

Hayes had led from the 49th minute, when Sparks rammed in Boothe's near-post flick from a Brady corner. They went on to increase their lead in the 83rd minute when Hall, a Barbados international and their most menacing player, was brought down by Wilson to concede a penalty, which was converted by Boothe.

Yet Bashley, two rungs below their Vauxhall Conference opponents in the Dr Martens League southern division, finished strongly enough to wonder what might have been if they had not been denied, at 1-0 down, by superlative saves in swift succession by Meara from Sales and Riley. "We can play better than we did," Case said. "Although some of that was down to playing better opposition and them not allowing us to."

Ray Pinney, Bashley chairman for the past year, who was lured to the club by the promise of its catering and hooked on its spirit, thinks that keeping Case — "he's so professional in everything he does" — will be hard, but Bashley is not such a strange place to find a player garlanded with honours from his Liverpool days. Case watched them when Leroy Whale, the apprentice who cleaned his boots at Southampton, went to play for them. It is also within half an hour of his home.

And even if his job, a full-time one, is a combination of coach, reserve-team player, fixture secretary, kit manager and flag-waver, it represents an oasis of sanity compared with his days in charge of Brighton and Hove Albion.

He also remains in debt to his footballing roots. "I started with a Sunday pub team, then went to South Liverpool, who were in the Northern Premier League," Case said. "I don't understand those players who just stop and don't put anything back into the game."

HAYES (4-4-2): R Meara — A Watts, C Sparks, A Cox, L Flynn (sub: N Rodda, 58min) — J Brady, D Williamson, M Pye (sub: J Frances, 81), M Hall — C Boothe, M Randall (sub: B Hammett, 46)

BASHLEY (4-3-3): S Keam — D Wilson, S Riley, D Morris, I Howell — M Fox, N Wilkens (sub: J Case, 76), M Oldbury (sub: G Barnes, 76) — P Andrews, J Taylor, P Sales.

Referee: P Taylor.

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Nationwide League: Home sides take local honours as Birmingham remain upwardly mobile

Fighting factions miss the point

Ipswich Town 5
Norwich City 0

BY MIKE WEBB

THERE was a football match on Saturday between Ipswich Town and Norwich City, which are 45 miles apart in neighbouring East Anglian counties – so how else would any self-respecting member of either community spend his afternoon, other than, first, ingesting Bacchanalian quantities of fizzy draught beer, second, doing disgusting things with their lunch and, third, knocking huge lumps out of each other?

There is something compellingly revolting about the behaviour of a certain sub-species of the human male when somebody whispers "local derby" in his ear. The words should mean football with added piquancy, extra flavour, a certain indefinable something that can be felt but not touched. Sometimes, they do; on other occasions, like this one, they are distilled into an irresistible urge to render oneself one step short of insensible and render the other chap one step beyond it.

The last time that Ipswich were at home to Norwich, there was precious little bother. The local constabulary sent in a heavy presence and they were scarcely needed. But then Ipswich did not beat Norwich 5-0 in that game to move to ninth in the Nationwide League first division table and leave Norfolk's finest looking like apprentice chumps. Ah, so the football *was* to blame, after all.

Two hours before the game started, it was clear that the more bellicose members of the opposing factions were not destined to spend their afternoon discussing beekeeping. It took only a few minutes after it ended for the blue and yellow shirts on the streets to start exploring their capacity for mutual hatred.

The other heroic home boys in blue – the ones wearing serge and helmets – made more than 30 arrests. It tended to divert the attention away from the football, which was something of a shame.

Ipswich had already had a decent seven days even before Saturday dawned. Five goals against Huddersfield Town at home the previous weekend and a 2-1 away victory over Manchester City in midweek had put them in the right frame of mind. Their cause was helped further by Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, who said that his side should be half-prepared for a sizeable defeat – just the thing to get his troops in the mood to compete. Not.

To be fair to Walker, his gloomy prognostication had substance. Ipswich played slick, purposeful football and even had enough to spare to allow George Burley, their manager, to remove one of his leading goalscorers, Alex Mathie, from the fray at half-time with a strained calf. Since Mathie had, by that time, scored three goals, he could be forgiven for thinking he had done enough.

In any case, Ipswich had just the man for a crisis. Bobby Petta, operating on the left of midfield, mesmerised Norwich in the second half. He sent two men the wrong way and left the rest chasing shadows with his first goal, and shot under the falling body of Marshall for his second. In the stands, Ipswich jeered and Norwich seethed. On the field, Ipswich strolled it. Off it, it was closer to being a dishonourable draw.

IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): R Wright — G Uhlenbeek, A Mowbray, J Cundy, J Clapham — M Stockwell (sub: D Sonner, 67min), K Dyer, M Holland, R Petta — D Johnson, A Mathie (sub: J Scowcroft, 45)
NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): A Marshall — D Sutch, C Fleming, M Jackson, V Segura (sub: D Kenton, 62) — A Forbes (sub: C Llewellyn, 37), S Carey, P Grant, D Eadie — R Fleck (sub: D Mills, 78), A Cook.
Referee: C Wilkes.

Johnson celebrates after scoring the first goal of his career and Birmingham's second in the victory over Sheffield United yesterday

Future looks bright for Francis

Birmingham City 2
Sheffield United 0

BY RICHARD HOBSON

AFTER seven months of huff and puff, of thud and blunder, the Nationwide League first division table is a predictable sight. Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest, the preseason favourites for automatic promotion, occupy the first two places and Sunderland are challenging hardest.

Behind these three sit six clubs separated by just four points from which, with the possible addition of the improving Ipswich Town, will emerge three contenders for the play-offs. Only the absence of Manchester City from this array is much of a surprise, though not with hindsight. Birmingham City yesterday confirmed their credentials as play-off candidates, while Sheffield United demonstrated why, despite an awesome home record, they are unlikely to improve upon their present position of fourth.

Birmingham, eighth behind Stockport County having scored fewer goals, controlled the game for the final 15 minutes of the first half and the opening half-hour of the second. During this period, Sheffield could not muster a single attack on goal. They rallied, they had to, but Saunders missed two difficult chances and Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, could ultimately reflect on a convincing victory.

"I hope by March and April we will be even better," Francis said. "It was a very powerful performance. Every player worked so hard and we did not allow Sheffield to have any control of the game."

Hughes, extending a leg to meet a cross by Charlton, almost put Birmingham ahead in the fifteenth minute, only to deflect the ball into the midriff of Kelly. They finally broke through after 31 minutes with as clinical a goal as will be witnessed all season. Bennett collected a Sheffield corner and immediately fed McCarthy on the right. He carried the ball for 60 yards, unimpeded by anything so vulgar as a tackle, before slipping his pass into the path of Grainger, who finished emphatically from 20 yards.

Francis: praised his side

As half-time approached, Charlton saw Kelly tip a 25-yard effort around the post and Bruce, unmarked at the far post, shot narrowly wide. Nigel Spackman, the United manager, had to act to arrest the situation. He replaced Borbokis with Derry and switched to a 4-4-2 formation, but to little effect.

O'Connor enjoyed one of his best games in the Birmingham midfield, while Bruce not only nullified what passed as the Sheffield threat, but strode forward like Gary Pallister. Adebola, very left-footed but muscular, and McCarthy, menaced with varying degrees of subtlety.

Adebola crossed low within an inch of Ndlovu, and O'Connor shot wide on the hour as Birmingham surged forward. A second goal was inevitable; the source, in the 66th minute, highly improbable. Johnson met O'Connor's cross with a firm shot for the first goal of his eight-year career. At full-time his manager handed him the match-ball.

Spackman suggested that the departure of Willie Donachie, the coach, to Manchester City, in midweek had unsettled his club. "We were second best from start to finish," he said. "A lot of players underperformed and seemed to be feeling sorry for themselves." Spackman expects to hear today whether Ian Rush will sign from Newcastle United. After the departure of Fjortoft and Deane, there is an obvious vacancy for a decent striker.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): I Bennett — J Bass, S Bruce, M Johnson (sub: D Purse, 90min), S Charlton — J McCarthy, M O'Connor, B Hughes (sub: S Robinson, 89), M Grainger — D Adebola, P Ndlovu (sub: N Forster, 88)
SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-4-1-2): A Kelly — E Barrett, D Holdsworth, L Sandford — V Borbokis (sub: S Derry, 46), N Marker, B Ford, W Quinn (sub: P Katchouro, 70) — D Saunders — G Stuart, G Taylor (sub: Marcelo, 70)
Referee: B Knight.

Merson's magic bewitches Sunderland

Middlesbrough 3
Sunderland 1

BY LYNNE CRITCHLEY

THERE are those who would ridicule comparisons between Middlesbrough and Manchester United. Not Peter Reid. After the 3-1 defeat of his Sunderland side, who lie third in the Nationwide League first division, at an emotionally-charged Tees-Wear derby on Saturday, he said of Middlesbrough: "They remind me of the way Man United play on the break. I don't think you could pay anybody a finer compliment."

A perfect day capped a perfect week for Middlesbrough: two new strikers, Alun Armstrong, from Stockport County, and Marco Branca, from Internazionale; defeat of Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup to reach a record third cup final in 12 months; back to the top of the league, one point clear of Nottingham Forest; even the launch of their own cable TV show, a feat not yet achieved by Manchester United.

Perhaps Bryan Robson's proud pedigree is finally beginning to reflect once more. He was "delighted" with this important result against in-form promotion rivals. Return to the Premiership has always been his priority.

But during the first 20 minutes, on a muddy Riverside pitch, one could have been forgiven for considering the midweek defeat of Liverpool a proverbial flash in the pan and that normal service was resumed with tea at three.

Middlesbrough started slowly and were unable to make headway, being forced into making errors by a well-disciplined young Sunderland side that harried their opponents, closed down quickly, tracked back and stole the ball from them in a terrier-like fashion.

But as Townsend and Mustoe began to establish themselves in midfield, Paul Merson began to work his magic. Before a record crowd of 30,227, he cast the kind of breathtaking spells not seen since the days of Juninho.

"Merson is different class. I think he's playing his best football of his career," Reid said. His finesse, lovely flicks, superlative vision and precision passes were a delight and cannot have gone unnoticed by John Gorman, Glenn Hoddle's England assistant, who was at the match.

It was Merson's work with Townsend that set up the first goal for the impressive Branca. In the second half, after Armstrong came on as substitute alongside Branca, Merson moved into a deeper midfield role, where he is much more effective.

After a scintillating run along the right wing, he again set up Branca for a skilfully crafted second goal, his third in two games, having scored on his debut against Liverpool.

The game was by no means one-way traffic. Sunderland had a lot of possession and could have equalised just before half-time through Niall Quinn, but for Pearson's goalline clearance. In the second half, Schwarzer, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, made an excellent save, diving full-length to deny Quinn again.

But the decisive third goal must have stuck in the throats of the 18,500 Sunderland fans who were watching the game live on screen at the Stadium of Light. The day before his 23rd birthday, Armstrong, a native of Gateshead, achieved every Geordie lad's dream: a goal against Sunderland.

After being picked out by Kinder, he turned sharply and fired the ball low into the left corner of the net for an excellent debut goal four minutes from time. Lee Clark, the Sunderland captain, gave fans some consolation by scoring from a good shot in injury time.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): M Schwarzer — S Vickers, G Festa, N Pearson, V Kinder — C Hignett (sub: A Armstrong, 60min), M Thomas (sub: C Fleming, 87) — R Mustoe, A Townsend (sub: M Beck, 87) — P Merson, M Branca.
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez — C Makin, J Craddock, D Holloway, M Gray — N Summerbee, L Clark, A Rae, A Johnston — K Phillips (sub: D Dichio, 72), N Quinn
Referee: R Furnandiz.

Buckley rewarded for bold initiative

Grimsby Town 2
Bournemouth 1

BY PAT GIBSON

FOOTBALL teams are not machines, Alan Buckley, the Grimsby Town manager, was saying. When they are not working properly, you cannot simply take a part out and put a new part in. We were talking about human beings and it is not always possible to put your finger on why things are going wrong.

There was just one flaw in his argument. He had done precisely what he said he could not do after Bournemouth threw a spanner into the works of the smoothest-running machine in the Nationwide League second division and brought it clanking to a halt.

With the game only 35 minutes old, Buckley replaced one key component, the centre back Lever, with a spare from an altogether different mould, the striker Lester, and Grimsby – beaten only once in their past 13 league games going back to November – came from behind to maintain their hot pursuit of faltering Bristol City for the second automatic promotion place.

Bournemouth are no slouches themselves, and Mel Machin, their manager, reckoned that they had been playing football beyond the standard of the second division in winning their previous five matches. His players supported his claim by refusing to let Grimsby into the match for most of the first half.

Bournemouth deservedly took the lead in the 24th minute when Warren's sweetly-struck left-foot volley curved beyond Davison in the Grimsby goal, and they might have scored again ten minutes later when Brissett's lob beat Davison but came back off the bar.

By then, Buckley had seen enough. "I just felt that I had to do something, whatever it was, just to make a change," he said. "We were going nowhere fast, only getting beaten, and I was not prepared just to sit there and let it happen."

So Lever went off, Lester came on and a team that prides itself on its football fought its way back into the game. The equaliser owed much to fortune when Lester released Gallimore down the left and the lunging O'Neill turned a low cross into his own net, but the winner was a classic. Donovan jinked past his marker out on the right and crossed perfectly for Groves to score with a soaring header.

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Davison — J McDermott, P Handyside, M Lever (sub: J Lester, 35min), T Gallimore — K Donovan, W Burnett, P Groves, D Smith (sub: K Black, 44) — L Nogan (sub: D Clare, 79), S Livingstone.
BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): J Glass — N Young, I Cox, F Rolling, M Rawlinson (sub: P Teather, 74) — J Bailey, J O'Neill (sub: C Fletcher, 79), S Robinson, C Warren — S Fletcher, J Brissett (sub: J Hayter, 79).
Referee: K Lynch.

Rosler lifts City's fortunes

JOE ROYLE, the Manchester City manager, praised Uwe Rösler after the German forward scored twice, with Lee Bradbury getting a third, as City won 3-1 at Swindon Town on Saturday.

"To come away from home and score three and have another disallowed pleases me because it shows we are moving in the right direction," Royle said. "I thought the attitude of my players was superb and we kept things tight at the back when Swindon started to play the ball around in the second half.

"Uwe Rösler was superb but all of my players were excellent as well."

Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager, said: "I am disappointed because once we had drawn level I thought we were the more likely side to have gone on and won."

Stephen Bywater, 16, the Rochdale and England Under-17 goalkeeper, claims that he has joined West Ham United in a deal that could be worth £2.3 million.

Bywater has played only one senior game for Rochdale since joining the Nationwide League third division side from school. "The total amount is £2.3 million – the bulk of it based on my first team appearances for West Ham and also based on my appearances with England's under-17 and under-18 teams," he said. "It's my ambition to be the England No 1 keeper."

McIlroy tries to build in United's image

Peterborough United 0
Macclesfield Town 1

BY IVO TENNANT

WHEREVER he goes or whatever he achieves in management, Sammy McIlroy will always be inextricably associated with Manchester United, and he clearly still adheres to the grounding he received at Old Trafford.

Although their away form has been unexceptional, Macclesfield were intent on playing decent football. A good deal of it. To win at London Road, and to win in some style, has been achieved by few teams this season. A headed goal by John Askey was created pleasingly, taken neatly and celebrated fittingly.

This match could be said to have determined which was the second best team in the Nationwide League third division after Notts County. Macclesfield, born as a rugby club, now look the part in football-ing terms.

"We only have 16 or 17 players and I am proud of them, especially as we have not been playing well away from home," McIlroy said.

It should not be forgotten that McIlroy is managing a team in the Football League for the first time. It is a team that is coming nicely to the fore, having now won five matches in succession. Given that Askey and Howarth each made a hash of free headers and that a couple of other decent chances were not taken, their victory should have been more comprehensive.

Several of Macclesfield's best moments emanated from Whittaker, a left-sided midfield player who was with Liverpool as a schoolboy and subsequently had four years with Bolton Wanderers. It was not difficult to see why. His ability to take on and beat his opposing full back, his crossing and his cross-field passing bore the stamp of the intuitive player.

The cross with which he found Askey midway through the second half was a case in point. He beat a defender with ease on the edge of the penalty area and his centre, which brought about Macclesfield's goal, was a markedly accurate one.

"To lose at home to Doncaster Rovers was bad enough, but now this," Barry Fry, the Peterborough manager, said. "We are not working hard enough, individually or collectively, and have stopped shooting at goal."

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-4-2): M Tyler — A Edwards, D Rennie, M Bodley, A Drury — D Farrell, S Castle, J Cornforth, N Lewis (sub: S Houghton, 79min) — M de Souza (sub: J Quinn, 45), D Roberts.
MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — D Tinson, N Howarth, E Sodje, S Payne — M McDonald, S Wood, N Sorvel, S Whitaker — J Askey, L Chambers.
Referee: G Laws.

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Booked: Platt, Anelka, Dixon.
Crystal Palace: K Miller, V Ismael, M Edworthy, H Hreidarsson, J Smith (sub: M Bent, 66), J Fullarton, A Roberts, S Rodger, D Gordon, B Dyer (sub: D Tuttle, 77), T Brolin.
Booked: Dyer, Fullarton, Hreidarsson, Roberts.
Referee: J Winter.

BOLTON (0) 1 **WEST HAM** (0) 1
Blake 86 Sinclair 65
25,000

Sent off: J Hartson (West Ham) 56

Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, N Cox, A Todd, C Fairclough (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 74min), G Bergsson, J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, M Johansen, N Blake, D Holdsworth.
West Ham United: C Forrest, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth, A Impey, F Lampard, J Moncur, S Lazaridis, E Berkovic, J Hartson, T Sinclair.
Referee: P Alcock.

COVENTRY (0) 1 **BARNSLEY** (0) 0
Dublin 89 (pen) 20,265

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, D Dublin, G Breen, D Burrows, P Telfer, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt (sub: Gavin Strachan, 77min), N Whelan, D Huckerby, V Moldovan (sub: M Hall, 68).
Barnsley: D Watson, N Eaden, A Moses, P Markstedt, S Jones, M Bullock (sub: C Marcelle, 79), N Redfearn, J Bosancic, D Sheridan (sub: G Hristov, 90), A Ward, J A Fjortoft (sub: J Hendrie, 70).
Booked: Bosancic, Eaden.
Referee: A Wilkie.

LEICESTER (1) 2 **CHELSEA** (0) 0
Heskey 3, 89 *21,335*

Leicester City: P Arphexad, S Prior, M Elliott, P Kaamark (sub: S Campbell, 81min), R Savage (sub: S Walsh, 25), N Lennon, T Zagorakis, M Izzet, S Guppy, A Cottee (sub: G Fenton, 45), E Heskey.
Booked: Lennon, Izzet.

Chelsea: D Kharine, S Clarke, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux, D Petrescu, D Wise, R Di Matteo, G Zola (sub: T A Flo, 71), G Vialli, M Hughes.
Booked: Wise, Di Matteo, Hughes.
Referee: P Durkin.

MAN UTD (1) 2 **DERBY** (0) 0
Giggs 18 *55,170*
Irwin 71 (pen)

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister, D Irwin (sub: M Clegg, 74min), D Beckham, N Butt, P Neville, R Giggs (sub: B McClair, 77), A Cole (sub: J Cruyff, 74), E Sheringham.
Derby County: M Poom, R Delap (sub: R Willems, 86), G Rowett, I Stimac, C Dailly, C Powell, S Eranio, L Carsley, D Sturridge, F Baiano, P Wanchope.
Booked: Sturridge.
Referee: M Reed.

SHEFF WED (1) 1 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 0
Di Canio 33 29,871

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, I Nolan (sub: S Oakes, 37min), J Newsome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe, G Hyde (sub: J Magilton, 72), P Atherton, M Pembridge (sub: D Stefanovic, 89), P Rudi, P di Canio, B Carbone.
Booked: Carbone, Hyde.
Tottenham Hotspur: E Baardsen, S Carr, C Calderwood, S Campbell, J Edinburgh (sub: J Dominguez, 76), R Fox, N Berti (sub: G Brady, 63), D Howells, A Nielsen, C Armstrong, D Ginola.
Booked: Howells, Fox, Ginola.
Referee: M Bodenham.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 **BLACKBURN** (0) 0
Ostenstad 19, 88 15,162
Hirst 78

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, F Benali, C Palmer, K Richardson (sub: D Hughes, 80min), M Oakley, M Le Tissier, D Hirst, E Ostenstad.
Booked: Oakley.
Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, C Hendry, M Broomes, G Croft, G Flitcroft (sub: S Ripley, 69), T Sherwood, W McKinlay, D Duff, M Dahlin (sub: J Beattie, 69), K Gallacher.
Booked: Broomes, Hendry.
Referee: U Rennie.

WIMBLEDON (2) 2 **ASTON VILLA** (1) 1
Euell 10 Milosevic 41
Leaburn 39 *13,131*

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, D Jupp (sub: S Solbakken, 53min), D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher, N Ardley, P Fear, V Jones, *M Gayle (sub: C Cort, 73), C Leaburn, J Euell.*
Booked: Jupp, Solbakken.
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, R Scimeca, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, A Wright, J Joachim, I Taylor, S Grayson, F Nelson (sub: D Byfield, 68), S Milosevic (sub: L Hendrie, 56), S Collymore.
Booked: Ehiogu.
Referee: G Ashby.

POSTPONED: Liverpool v Everton. Pools Panel: Half-time: no-score draw. FT: home win.

Yesterday

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 **LEEDS** (0) 1
Ketsbaia 87 *Wallace 82*
36,511

Newcastle United: S Given, A Hughes (sub: T Ketsbaia, 86min), *A Pistone, D Batty, S Howey, S Pearce, R Lee*, K Gillespie (sub: P Albert, 86min), G Speed, A Andersson, A Shearer.
Booked: Batty.
Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, R Molenaar, G Halle, A I Haaland, D Wetherall, A Maybury, B Ribeiro, H Kewell, J Hasselbaink, R Wallace.
Booked: Haaland, Kewell, Ribeiro, Kelly, Wallace.
Referee: G Willard.

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 21: A Cole (Man Utd). *19: J Hartson (West Ham).* 17: D Dublin (Coventry). K Gallacher (Blackburn), M Owen (Liverpool) 16: C Sutton (Blackburn); D Bergkamp (Arsenal) 15: G Vialli (Chelsea) 14: J F Hasselbaink (Leeds) 13: J A Fjortoft (Barnsley, 12 for Sheff Utd), R Fowler (Liverpool); P Wanchope (Derby) 12: F Baiano (Derby); P Di Canio (Sheff Wed); K Davies (Southampton).
Includes all competitions

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 2 Lecce 2; Bologna 3 Piacenza 0; Brescia 2 Atalanta 2; Fiorentina 3 Juventus 0; Lazio 3 Internazionale 0; AC Milan 3 Empoli 1; Napoli 0 AS Roma 2; Sampdoria 0 Udinese 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	22	14	6	2	48	19	48
Lazio	22	13	5	4	40	17	44
Internazionale	22	13	5	4	39	20	44
Udinese	22	12	6	4	43	27	42
Fiorentina	22	10	8	4	43	22	38
Roma	22	10	8	4	39	26	38
*Parma	21	9	8	4	34	21	35
Milan	22	9	7	6	29	22	34
Sampdoria	22	9	7	6	39	38	34
Bologna	22	6	8	8	32	32	26
Brescia	22	6	5	11	28	34	23
Bari	22	6	5	11	20	33	23
*Vicenza	21	6	5	10	22	41	23
Empoli	22	5	5	12	33	41	20
Piacenza	22	3	11	8	16	26	20
Atalanta	22	4	8	10	19	33	20
Lecce	22	3	3	16	16	52	12
Napoli	22	2	4	16	15	50	10

** Does not include last night's match*

FRENCH LEAGUE: Marseilles 0 Rennes 1; Le Havre 2 Metz 1; RC Lens 1 Girondins Bordeaux 0; En Avant Guingamp 0 Paris St *Germain 0; Montpellier 1 Lyons 1;* Auxerre 1 Cannes 1; Nantes 0 Toulouse 1; Strasbourg 2 Chateauroux 0; Bastia 1 AS Monaco 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseilles	27	15	5	7	39	18	50
Metz	27	14	8	5	38	22	50
Monaco	27	15	4	8	41	24	49
Lens	27	15	4	8	38	28	49
Paris SG	27	13	6	8	37	26	45
Lyons	27	13	3	11	31	30	42
Bastia	27	10	10	7	27	20	40
Bordeaux	27	10	10	7	35	31	40
Auxerre	27	11	6	10	43	36	39
Nantes	27	10	5	12	27	31	35
Montpellier	27	8	10	9	28	33	34
Le Havre	27	7	11	9	28	27	32
Toulouse	27	8	7	12	22	37	31
Rennes	27	7	7	13	28	37	28
Guingamp	27	7	7	13	22	32	28
Strasbourg	27	6	8	13	30	38	26
Chateauroux	27	7	5	15	25	50	26
Cannes	27	6	6	15	27	46	24

SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Betis 1 Espanol 3; Salamanca 3 Merida 1; Real Sociedad 2 Oviedo 2; Valencia 2 Celta Vigo 1; Deportivo La Coruña 3 Athletic Bilbao 0; Mallorca 2 Racing Santander 1; Tenerife 4 Real Madrid 3; Sporting Gijón 1 Real Valladolid 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	26	13	8	5	47	30	47
*Barcelona	24	14	4	6	50	35	46
Real Sociedad	26	11	11	4	41	24	44
Mallorca	26	11	9	6	38	22	42
Atlético Madrid	25	11	8	6	52	32	41
Celta Vigo	26	12	5	9	36	31	41
Athletic Bilbao	26	10	10	6	32	31	40
Español	26	9	11	6	32	19	38
Valencia	26	11	4	11	39	33	37
Real Betis	24	10	7	7	32	32	37
Real Zaragoza	25	9	8	8	35	41	35
Deportivo Coruña	26	7	12	7	29	27	33
Oviedo	26	7	12	7	28	32	33
Valladolid	25	9	5	11	24	35	32
Racing Santander	26	8	6	12	29	37	30
Merida	26	7	7	12	25	39	28
Tenerife	26	7	7	12	30	44	28
*Compostela	25	6	9	10	33	42	27
Salamanca	26	7	6	13	21	30	27
Sporting Gijón	26	1	3	22	22	59	6

** Does not include last night's match*

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Standard 3 Aalst 0; RWD Molenbeek 0 FC Bruges 2; Antwerp 0 Westerlo 0, Beveren 1 Harelbeke 0; Ghent 1 *Lokeren 1; Charleroi 3 Germinal Ekeren 2;* Genk 3 Lommel 0; Lierse 1 Sint-Truiden 0; *Excelsior Mouscron* 2 Anderlecht 2.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Leca 0 Estrela 4; Academica Coimbra 0 Maritimo Funchal 0; *Desportivo Chaves* 1 Belenenses 0; Farense 2 Vitoria Guimaraes 0; Vitoria Setubal 1 Varzim 1; Rio Ave 1 Salgueiros Porto 1; Sporting 1 Benfica 4; *Campomaiorense* 2 FC Porto 2; Sporting Braga 1 Boavista Porto 2.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: Quarter-finals: Burkina Faso 1 *Tunisia 1* (aet; Burkina Faso won 8-7 on pens, at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso); Congo 1 Cameroon 0 (at Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso); Ivory Coast 0 Egypt 0 (aet; Egypt won 5-4 on penalties, at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso); South Africa 2 Morocco 1 (at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso).

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Holland 2 United States 0 (at Pro Player Stadium, Miami).

Gabriel Batistuta, right, of Fiorentina, celebrates with Salvatore Firicano after scoring in their Italian League match with *Juventus. Photograph: Francesco Bellini*

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	27	11	2	1	35	6	6	3	4	21	13	56	+37
2 Arsenal	25	10	2	2	29	9	3	6	2	16	17	47	+18
3 Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46	+19
4 Chelsea	26	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	8	30	21	45	+23
5 Blackburn	26	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	3	14	15	45	+14
6 Derby	27	9	3	1	25	8	3	3	8	16	26	42	+7
7 Leicester	27	5	7	3	16	11	5	3	4	15	12	40	+8
8 Leeds	26	5	3	4	17	14	6	3	5	18	15	39	+6
9 West Ham	26	9	1	1	26	8	3	2	10	12	28	39	+2
10 Coventry	27	6	7	1	21	14	3	2	8	11	21	36	-3
11 Southmptn	27	8	1	5	23	16	2	3	8	10	21	34	-4
12 Sheff Wed	27	7	4	4	25	22	2	3	7	16	29	34	-10
13 Newcastle	26	6	4	5	16	16	3	2	6	10	15	33	-5
14 Wimbledon	25	4	3	6	14	17	4	5	3	13	11	32	-1
15 A Villa	27	5	3	5	17	18	3	3	8	11	20	30	-10
16 Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	28	-8
17 Tottenham	27	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	10	11	27	27	-18
18 Bolton	26	3	8	2	11	13	1	4	8	12	29	24	-19
19 C Palace	26	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	5	14	15	23	-17
20 Barnsley	26	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	11	8	40	22	-40

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Middlesbro	32	11	3	2	31	10	8	5	3	23	17	65	(54)
2 Nottm F	32	12	2	2	36	16	7	5	4	16	13	64	(52)
3 Sunderland	31	9	4	2	31	13	8	3	5	23	19	58	(54)
4 Sheff Utd	31	11	4	0	28	11	3	8	5	18	22	54	(46)
5 Charlton	32	10	4	1	30	14	5	4	8	24	26	53	(54)
6 Wolvrhmptn	32	10	4	2	29	14	5	2	9	13	18	51	(42)
7 Stockport	33	11	4	1	34	13	4	1	12	18	30	50	(52)
8 Birmingham	32	7	6	3	19	9	6	5	5	22	14	50	(41)
9 West Brom	33	8	4	5	18	15	6	4	6	17	17	50	(35)
10 Ipswich	32	7	4	4	25	14	5	8	4	23	19	48	(48)
11 Swindon	34	9	3	5	25	19	4	4	9	11	30	46	(36)
12 Bradford	34	8	7	2	20	14	3	5	9	14	21	45	(34)
13 Crewe	33	6	2	9	19	26	7	2	7	24	22	43	(43)
14 Norwich	33	7	5	5	16	20	4	3	9	15	30	41	(31)
15 QPR	33	7	6	4	19	15	2	5	9	16	33	38	(35)
16 Oxford Utd	32	7	4	4	20	15	3	3	11	18	30	37	(38)
17 Tranmere	32	6	5	5	21	17	3	4	9	15	24	36	(36)
18 Huddersfld	33	6	4	8	18	17	3	5	9	16	32	36	(34)
19 Reading	32	6	4	7	22	24	3	5	7	10	26	36	(32)
20 Stoke	33	5	5	6	20	26	3	8	8	12	21	35	(32)
21 Port Vale	33	5	5	7	20	20	4	2	10	18	30	34	(38)
22 Man City	33	4	4	9	21	20	4	5	7	16	18	33	(37)
23 Bury	33	3	9	5	15	19	2	8	6	14	22	32	(29)
24 Portsmth	32	6	3	8	22	27	2	3	10	12	23	30	(34)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Watford	32	9	4	2	25	14	10	5	2	22	10	66	(47)
2 Bristol City	33	12	3	2	32	13	6	5	5	22	14	62	(54)
3 Northmptn	33	11	4	2	26	12	2	9	5	12	15	52	(38)
4 Grimsby	30	8	5	2	24	9	6	4	5	18	16	51	(42)
5 Fulham	32	9	6	1	20	7	5	3	8	22	22	51	(42)
6 Bristol R	32	8	1	6	26	24	6	7	4	22	22	50	(48)
7 Oldham	32	11	4	1	32	14	1	8	7	13	21	48	(45)
8 Gillingham	32	8	5	3	21	15	5	4	7	20	24	48	(41)
9 Bournemth	32	9	6	2	22	8	3	4	8	18	25	46	(40)
10 Wrexham	31	7	6	2	21	16	4	5	7	16	22	44	(37)
11 Chestrfld	33	8	6	2	20	12	2	8	7	11	18	44	(31)
12 Blackpool	33	9	5	3	27	19	3	2	11	16	31	43	(43)
13 York	32	9	3	4	22	14	1	10	5	16	26	43	(38)
14 Wycombe	33	7	7	2	22	15	2	6	9	16	28	40	(38)
15 Millwall	31	5	5	6	17	17	6	2	7	16	22	40	(33)
16 Walsall	30	7	5	3	20	12	3	3	9	12	23	38	(32)
17 Wigan	31	6	4	5	28	24	4	2	10	17	25	38	(43)
18 Preston	32	6	4	6	18	16	3	5	8	19	22	36	(37)
19 Plymouth	32	6	5	5	26	23	2	6	8	13	23	35	(39)
20 Burnley	32	6	8	2	24	15	2	2	12	14	29	34	(38)
21 Luton	32	4	4	9	23	33	4	6	5	14	16	34	(37)
22 Brentford	33	7	5	4	25	18	0	7	10	8	34	33	(33)
23 Carlisle	32	5	5	6	19	20	3	2	11	21	30	31	(40)
24 Southend	33	6	6	5	20	21	2	1	13	13	40	31	(33)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Notts Co	33	9	5	2	26	15	12	4	1	31	15	72	(57)
2 Macclsfld	33	14	3	0	30	8	2	7	7	17	24	58	(47)
3 Torquay	33	11	2	3	31	14	5	6	6	21	26	56	(52)
4 Peterboro	33	10	3	4	31	14	5	7	4	23	18	55	(54)
5 Barnet	33	9	5	3	29	16	6	4	6	18	21	54	(47)
6 Lincoln	32	7	5	4	21	19	7	6	3	17	17	53	(38)
7 Scarboro	33	11	3	3	35	19	4	4	8	19	28	52	(54)
8 Chester	33	10	5	2	26	7	5	2	8	20	29	52	(46)
9 Rotherham	33	8	4	4	31	24	5	7	5	18	20	50	(49)
10 L Orient	32	9	4	3	28	13	4	5	7	15	16	48	(43)
11 Colchester	33	10	3	4	28	18	3	5	8	24	32	47	(52)
12 Exeter	33	6	8	3	25	18	5	5	6	22	24	46	(47)
13 Hartlepool	33	7	10	0	27	14	2	7	7	15	22	44	(42)
14 Mansfield	33	7	6	3	30	19	4	4	9	14	20	43	(44)
15 Scunthrpe	32	6	5	5	19	19	6	2	8	19	22	43	(38)
16 Shrwsbury	31	8	2	5	23	19	2	7	7	18	25	39	(47)
17 Cardiff	33	4	10	3	17	15	3	8	5	15	18	39	(32)
18 Cambs Utd	33	7	5	4	27	22	1	9	7	16	23	38	(43)
19 Darlington	32	9	5	2	30	19	0	4	12	10	36	36	(40)
20 Rochdale	33	9	2	5	25	11	2	1	14	11	32	36	(36)
21 Swansea	33	5	5	6	16	13	5	1	11	19	33	36	(35)
22 Hull	33	7	4	5	29	25	1	1	15	14	37	29	(43)
23 Brighton	33	1	7	9	13	26	3	4	9	12	22	23	(25)
24 Doncaster	33	2	3	11	9	35	1	4	12	12	46	16	(21)

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BRADFORD *(0) 0* ***OXFORD UTD*** *(0) 0*
14,190

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 **WOLVERHAMPTON** (0) 0
Dyson 90 12,663

IPSWICH (3) 5 **NORWICH** (0) 0
Mathie 2, 27, 42 21,858
Petta 56, 81

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 **SUNDERLAND** (0) 1
Branca 31, 68 Clark 90
Armstrong 87 30,227

QPR (0) 0 **PORT VALE** (1) 1
14,198 Mills 24

READING (0) 0 **PORTSMOUTH** (0) 1
9,928 Whitbread 83

STOCKPORT (1) 3 **CHARLTON** (0) 0
Cooper 12, 53 7,705
Mutch 66

STOKE (1) 1 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 1
Crowe 32 *Moore 87*
16,899

SWINDON (0) 1 **MAN CITY** (1) 3
Cowe 71 Rösler 22, 77
12,280 Bradbury 83

TRANMERE (0) 0 **CREWE** (1) 3
7,534 Rivers 45
Little 64, 70

WEST BROM (1) 1 ***BURY*** (0) 1
Hughes 45 Ellis 57
15,840

Yesterday

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 ***SHEFF UTD*** (0) 0
Grainger 31 17,965
Johnson 66

SECOND DIVISION

BRISTOL ROVERS (2) 3 **OLDHAM** (0) 1
Hayles 43, 79 Starbuck 60 (pen)
Ramasut 44 5,789

BURNLEY (0) 1 **BRENTFORD** (0) 1
Little 77 *Taylor 50*
10,097

CHESTERFIELD (2) 3 **WREXHAM** (0) 1
Howard 12, 45 Owen 76
Reeves 64 3,919

FULHAM (0) 2 **WIGAN** (0) 0
Hayward 56 7,791
Peschisolido 89

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 **CARLISLE** (0) 0
Butler 71 6,270

GRIMSBY (0) 2 **BOURNEMOUTH** (1) 1
O'Neill 66 (og) Warren 24
Groves 79 5,456

LUTON (0) 0 **BRISTOL CITY** (0) 0
6,405

MILLWALL (0) 0 **NORTHAMPTON** (0) 0
6,007

PRESTON (0) 1 **WYCOMBE** (0) 1
Macken 64 Brown 60
7,665

SOUTHEND (2) 2 **BLACKPOOL** (0) 1
Dublin 9 Bryan 49
Boere 12 3,340

WALSALL (0) 0 **PLYMOUTH** (1) 1
4,612 Heathcote 15

YORK (1) 1 **WATFORD** (0) 1
Barras 26 (pen) Palmer 90
4,290

THIRD DIVISION

CARDIFF (0) 0 **CAMBRIDGE UTD** (0) 0
2,531

CHESTER (0) 4 **ROTHERHAM** (0) 0
Murphy 47 2,432
Alsford 50
Priest 71, 87
Sent off: A Roscoe (Rotherham) 70
R Mimms (Rotherham) 78

DONCASTER (0) 0 **TORQUAY** (0) 1
1,424 Bedeau 87

EXETER (0) 0 **COLCHESTER** (0) 1
3,336 Lock 69

HULL (2) 2 **SCUNTHORPE** (1) 1
Dewhurst 15 Riggs 36
McGinty 37 4,904

LEYTON ORIENT (1) 2 **SWANSEA** (1) 2
Griffiths 43 Coates 33
Harris 65 O'Gorman 75
4,261

LINCOLN (0) 2 **BARNET** (0) 0
Hone 54 2,945
Gordon 89

MANSFIELD (0) 4 **DARLINGTON** (0) 0
Harper 47, 48, 64 2,071
Sedgemore 67
Sent off: S Shaw (Darlington) 45

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 **SCARBOROUGH** (0) 0
Farrell 6 5,645

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 **MACCLESFIELD** (0) 1
6,224 Askey 70

ROCHDALE (1) 2 **BRIGHTON** (0) 0
Jones 37
Stuart 54 1,865

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 ***HARTLEPOOL*** (0) 0
Evans 93 (pen) 2,160

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 28: P Van Hooijdonk (Nottm Forest). 21: K Phillips (Sunderland). 20: D Johnson (Ipswich, 8 for Bury). 18: B Angell (Stockport). 16: C Mendonca (Charlton); A Armstrong (Middlesbrough, 15 for Stockport); P Furlong (Birmingham) 15: C Hay (Swindon, 1 for Celtic); P Merson (Middlesbrough). 14: M Beck (Middlesbrough); P Thorne (Stoke); J Beauchamp (Oxford Utd). 13: K Campbell (Nottm Forest); A Hunt (West Brom); L *Mills (Port Vale)*

SECOND DIVISION: 22: R Boli (Walsall). 19: A Thorpe (Luton). 18: B Hayles (Bristol Rovers). 17: S Goater (Bristol City); R Taylor (Brentford). 16: A Akinbiyi (Gillingham). 15: P Peschisolido (Fulham, 6 for West Brom); A Watson (Walsall). 14: M Stallard (Wycombe); I Stevens (Carlisle); A Cooke (Burnley), R Rowe (York). 13: P Kennedy (Watford). 12: C Corazzin (Plymouth); S Barlow (Oldham)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

CELTIC (2) 4 **KILMARNOCK** (0) 0
Brattbakk 11, 36, 70, 87 49,231

Celtic: J Gould, T Boyd, S Mahe, J McNamara (sub: S Donnelly, 62min), M Rieper (sub: E Annoni, 72min), A Stubbs, H Larsson (sub: D Jackson, 76min), C Burley, H Brattbakk, P Lambert, M Wieghorst.
Kilmarnock: G Marshall, A MacPherson, M Baker, J Lauchlan, K McGowne, M Reilly, A Mitchell (sub: M O'Neill, 83min), G Holt, P Wright (sub: J Vareille, 68min), J McIntyre (sub: M Roberts, 81min), J Henry.
Booked: Baker, Reilly, Mitchell.
Referee: A Freeland.

DUNFERMLINE (0) 2 **DUNDEE UTD** (1) 2
Smith 52, 90 McSwegan 40, 80
5,250

Dunfermline: I Westwater, G Shields, M McCulloch, A Tod, D Barnett (sub: J Fraser, 20min), D Bingham (sub: P *McDonald, 84min), G Shaw (sub: A Moore, 46min)*, C Robertson, A Smith, H French, S Petrie.
Dundee United: S Dykstra, M Skoldmark, M Malpas, S *Pressley, M Perry, E Pedersen, R Winters, L Zetterlund*, G McSwegan (sub: C Easton, 87min), J Dolan, J Mixsie-Misse (sub: M Omoyinmi, 82min).
Referee: J Underhill.

HIBERNIAN (1) 1 **RANGERS** (1) 2
Lavety 19 Negri 35
13,968 Albertz 88

Sent off: A Cleland (Rangers) 73

Hibernian: B Gunn, W Miller, J Boco, C Jackson (sub: B Grant, 78min), J Hughes, B Welsh, K Harper, A Dow, S Crawford, B Lavety (sub: A Walker, 81min), A Rougier.
Booked: Hughes, Lavety, Rougier.
Rangers: A Goram, A Cleland, J Albertz, R Gough, S Porrini, J Bjorklund, B Ferguson (sub: S McCall, 78min), I Ferguson *(sub: P Gascoigne, 69min)*, M Negri, G Durie, B Laudrup.
Booked: Gough, Bjorklund, Durie.
Referee: H Dallas.

MOTHERWELL (2) 2 **HEARTS** (1) 4
Coyle 6 Hamilton 38, 58
Falconer 37 Fulton 64
8,375 Adam 87

Motherwell: S Woods, E May (sub: E Garcin, 78min), S McMillan, R Newman, B Martin, W Falconer, S Valakari, I Ross (sub: L McCulloch, 43min), T Coyne, W Davies (sub: K Christie, 67min), O Coyle.
Hearts: G Rousset, S Salvatori (sub: G Locke, 55min), G Naysmith, D Weir, D McPherson, P Ritchie, N McCann, S Fulton (sub: T Flogel, 89min), S Adam, I Cameron, J Hamilton.
Booked: Ritchie, Fulton, Cameron.
Referee: J Fleming.

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0 **ABERDEEN** (1) 1
6,570 Dodds 14

St Johnstone: S Robertson, J McQuillan, A Preston, N Dasovic, J Weir, A Kernaghan, S Tosh (sub: T Wright, 64min), J O'Neil (sub: R Grant, 73min), P Kane, G O'Boyle, L Jenkinson.
Booked: Preston.
Aberdeen: J Leighton, D Rowson, D White, B O'Neil, J Inglis, G Smith, J Miller (sub: R Anderson, 75min), E Jess, I Kiriakov, W Dodds (sub: B O'Neill, 83min), S Glass.
Referee: D Smith.

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (0) 1 **STIRLING** (0) 0
Burns 66 1,637

DUNDEE (0) 1 ***AIRDRIE*** *(0) 0*
McCormick 72 3,239

GK MORTON (2) 3 **RAITH** (0) 1
Collins 6 Thomson 63
Mahood 10 2,700
Duffield 86

PARTICK (0) 0 **FALKIRK** (0) 0
3,221

POSTPONED: Hamilton v St Mirren. Pools Panel: Half-time: no-score draw. FT: no-score draw

SECOND DIVISION

CLYDEBANK (0) 2 **BRECHIN** (0) 1
McDonald 70, 71 Farnan 75
252

FORFAR (0) 1 **EAST FIFE** (0) 0
Honeyman 61 (pen) 460
Sent off: K Gilles (East Fife) 78

INVERNESS CT (0) 2 **LIVINGSTON** (0) 2
Sheerer 37 Raynes 16
McCulloch 44 *Harvey 22*
2,197

STENHOUSEMUIR (2) 2 **QUEEN OF SOUTH** (0) 0
McCutcheon 13, 30 416

STRANRAER (2) 3 **CLYDE** (0) 0
Geraghty 36 518
McAulay 45 (pen)
Young 58

THIRD DIVISION

BERWICK (1) 1 **ALLOA** (1) 1
Martin 23 Simpson 38
435

COWDENBEATH (2) 2 **DUMBARTON** (0) 0
Winter 32 302
Stewart 36

EAST STIRLING (0) 1 **ROSS COUNTY** (0) 0
Walker 66 340

MONTROSE (0) 1 **ALBION** (1) 3
Taylor 60 Ross 36, 48 (pen)
292 Watters 50

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 **ARBROATH** (0) 2
472 Gram 66
Gallagher 72 (pen)

GOALSCORERS

PREMIER DIVISION: 35: M Negri (Rangers) 21: A Smith (Dunfermline) 17: K Olofsson (Dundee Utd): G McSwegan (Dundee Utd) 16: H Larsson (Celtic); R Winters (Dundee Utd) 13: O Coyle (Motherwell) 12: P Wright (Kilmarnock) 11: J Hamilton (Hearts): T Coyne (Motherwell): C Burley *(Celtic): S Donnelly (Celtic).* 10: G O'Boyle *(St Johnstone)* 9: I Cameron (Hearts) D Dodds (Aberdeen)

FIRST DIVISION: *15: A Bone (Stirling) 13: J Grady* (Dundee): S Cooper (Airdrie) 11: K Wright (Raith) 10: W Hawke (Greenock Morton): D Moss (Falkirk) 9: J Mendes (St Mirren). P Connolly (Airdrie), B McPhee (Airdrie): A Craig (Falkirk), I Ferguson (Ayr) 8: L Djaffo (Ayr): E Annand (Dundee) 7: A Morgan (Partick, 2 for Forfar), S Crabbe (Falkirk)

SECOND DIVISION: 16: I Stewart (Inverness Cal) 15: B Thomson (Inverness Cal): S Mallan (Queen of South) 12: B Honeyman (Forfar) 11: G Harvey (Livingston) 9: *C McDonald (Clydebank)*: I *Little* (Stenhousemuir), G Young (Stranraer) 9: M McLauchlan (Forfar); T Bryce (Queen of South): K Eadie (Queen of South). C Flannigan (Queen of South), B Wilson (Inverness Cal) 7: P Brownlie (Clyde): B Moffat (East Fife)

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	25	10	3	0	37	12	6	4	3	20	15	52	+30
2 Celtic	25	9	1	2	29	6	7	3	3	18	11	52	+30
3 Hearts	25	8	2	2	28	17	8	2	3	28	16	52	+23
4 Kilmarnck	25	6	2	4	15	16	3	4	6	13	28	33	-16
5 St Johnstn	25	5	2	6	14	17	4	3	5	12	14	32	-5
6 Dundee Utd	25	5	4	3	19	10	2	4	7	16	28	29	[illegible]
7 Aberdeen	25	5	4	4	17	14	2	3	7	11	25	28	-11
8 Dunfrine	25	3	6	4	17	21	3	2	7	11	25	26	-18
9 Motherwell	25	3	3	6	18	20	3	2	8	15	25	23	-12
10 Hibernian	25	4	3	6	21	19	0	3	9	8	26	18	-16

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Dundee	25	5	5	3	14	8	9	3	0	25	8	50	+25
2 Raith	25	8	2	2	20	6	4	4	5	17	18	42	+13
3 Falkirk	25	6	3	3	19	16	6	3	4	21	16	42	+8
4 Airdrie	25	7	5	1	20	13	3	5	4	11	15	40	+3
5 Hamilton	24	4	4	3	11	12	4	3	6	21	22	31	-2
6 St Mirren	24	6	2	4	16	15	2	3	7	13	22	29	-8
7 G Morton	26	4	3	6	16	20	3	4	6	18	20	28	-6
8 Ayr	25	5	2	6	20	19	2	4	6	8	19	27	-10
9 Partick	25	2	4	6	20	26	3	5	5	12	16	24	-10
10 Stirling	24	2	6	5	16	26	3	2	6	15	18	23	-13

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Clydebank	24	6	5	2	19	10	7	3	1	19	9	47	+19
2 Livingston	23	7	1	2	20	12	4	6	3	18	15	40	+11
3 Queen Of S	24	6	3	2	14	10	4	2	7	23	25	35	+2
4 Stenhsmuir	24	6	4	3	23	18	3	2	6	11	17	33	-1
5 Stranraer	24	6	3	4	27	18	2	4	5	11	17	31	+3
6 Forfar	23	5	3	4	23	21	3	4	4	17	20	31	-1
7 East Fife	24	5	1	5	20	24	4	2	7	12	20	30	-12
8 Inverness CT	22	5	6	2	26	15	1	2	6	16	18	26	+9
9 Clyde	24	4	3	4	14	13	2	5	6	14	24	26	-9
10 Brechin	24	3	5	3	12	14	1	4	8	15	33	21	-20

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Alloa	23	7	0	4	24	13	7	2	3	24	15	44	+20
2 Arbroath	24	7	3	2	23	16	6	1	5	20	16	43	+17
3 East Stirling	25	9	0	4	24	13	4	2	6	12	20	41	+3
4 Ross Co	23	5	3	3	26	13	6	3	3	18	12	39	+19
5 Albion	23	7	2	1	22	12	4	2	7	20	30	37	0
6 Berwick	24	4	4	5	19	21	4	3	4	15	17	31	-4
7 Queen's Pk	25	4	2	7	17	23	3	5	4	12	13	28	-7
8 Cowdnbth	24	5	1	7	12	20	4	0	7	12	19	28	-15
9 Montrose	23	2	3	7	15	24	4	2	5	17	29	28	-21
10 Dumbarton	24	0	5	6	8	16	4	3	6	21	25	20	-12

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

FARNBOROUGH (0) 1 **TELFORD** (0) 0
Laidlaw 84 543

HEREFORD (0) 1 **LEEK** (0) 0
Agana 52 1,712

KETTERING (0) 0 **RUSHDEN & D** (2) 4
4,016 Mison 19
Underwood 42
West 57, 87

STALYBRIDGE (1) 3 **MORECAMBE** (0) 1
Sullivan 20, 50, 73 McKearney 89 (pen)
756

WELLING (0) 0 **KIDDRMNSTR** (1) 3
613 Arnold 5 (pen)
Bignall 56, 72

WOKING (2) 3 **GATESHEAD** (1) 1
Hay 1, 28 Bowey 34
Payne 68 *2,081*

YEOVIL (0) 0 **HALIFAX** (1) 1
2,584 Paterson 45 (pen)

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	29	12	1	0	35	6	7	6	3	19	20	64
Rushden	29	9	2	3	29	16	8	0	7	25	22	53
Woking	28	9	3	2	30	12	6	4	4	19	15	52
Cheltenham	28	9	4	0	25	10	6	3	4	17	16	52
Morecambe	28	7	3	5	25	24	7	3	3	28	14	48
Hednesford	28	10	3	1	21	10	3	6	5	22	25	48
Hereford	28	8	4	3	22	16	4	3	6	16	20	43
Hayes	29	6	3	5	24	19	6	3	6	23	18	42
Slough	27	5	3	4	19	14	7	3	5	17	14	42
Southport	27	7	3	3	27	18	4	5	5	17	16	41
Yeovil	27	9	2	3	28	17	2	2	8	17	25	37
Northwich	27	4	7	2	28	16	4	5	5	18	25	36
Farnborough	29	6	3	5	27	18	2	3	8	16	31	33
Dover	27	7	2	5	20	19	3	3	7	18	29	35
Welling	28	5	4	5	21	20	4	3	7	18	25	34
Stevenage	28	6	4	4	23	17	2	4	8	13	22	32
Kettering	28	5	4	6	18	21	2	4	7	13	22	29
Kidderminster	29	3	6	5	20	24	3	4	8	18	24	28
Leek	28	5	6	3	24	17	1	4	9	13	30	28
Telford	28	2	4	7	12	22	3	4	8	19	30	23
Stalybridge	28	5	4	7	23	25	1	1	10	9	29	23
Gateshead	28	3	3	7	15	28	0	5	10	15	37	17

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Marine 1; Chorley 1 Emley 2; Frickley 1 Colwyn Bay 3; Gainsborough 3 Bamber Bridge 2; Lancaster 1 Alfreton 1; Leigh RMI 1 Blyth Spartans 1; Runcorn 3 Boston 0; Spennymoor 1 Guiseley 2; Winsford 0 Bishop Auckland 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	31	20	6	5	48	16	66
Boston Utd	30	15	11	4	38	25	56
Runcorn	29	17	4	8	58	33	55
Bishop Auck	31	14	8	9	61	45	50
Altrincham	31	14	6	11	54	34	48
Leigh RMI	25	12	9	4	40	24	45
Guiseley	30	11	12	7	48	41	45
Winsford Utd	29	12	8	9	37	33	44
Marine	28	11	9	8	39	37	42
Gainsborough	27	12	5	10	33	30	41
Hyde Utd	30	9	13	8	48	41	40
Emley	27	11	7	9	45	40	40
Frickley	30	11	6	13	37	46	39
Spennymoor	28	10	8	10	40	43	38
Colwyn Bay	28	10	7	11	38	44	37
Lancaster	33	10	7	16	43	57	37
Chorley	32	11	4	17	43	59	37
Blyth Sparts	29	8	9	12	38	45	33
Accrington S	33	7	12	14	39	49	33
Bamber Bridge	30	6	7	17	36	57	25
Radcliffe Bor	30	4	10	16	31	54	22
Alfreton Town	29	2	8	19	23	64	14

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford PA 1 Ruddon 0; Belper Town 1 Great Harwood 2; Congleton 1 Workington 3; Droylsden 4 Gretna 1; *Harrogate Town 0 Farsley Celtic 1*; Matlock Town 2 Netherfield 3 Trafford 1 Stocksbridge PS 2; Whitby 4 Buxton 3; Whitley Bay 2 Lincoln 2; Witton 1 Worksop 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Thamesmead 4; *Crockenhill 2 Chatham 0; Herne Bay 6* Deal 0; Erith 1 VCD 5; Folkestone Invicta 8 Lordswood 1; Hythe 1 Greenwich 3; Sheppey 1 Cray 1; Slade Green 2 Corinthian 1 Swanley Furness 1 Faversham 1; Tunbridge Wells 1 Beckenham 2; Whitstable 2 Ramsgate 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Lloyds Bank 4 Civil Service 1; Norseman 1 Old Actonians 1; East Barnet OG 1 Carshalton 1; Old Parmiterians 3 South Bank Poly 1; Lensbury 3 West Wickham 2; Polytechnic 1 Crouch End Vampires 1; Barclays Bank 1 Old Parkonians 1; Alexandra Park 1 Old Owens 1; Old Latymerians 0 Old Lyonians 1; Cuaco 1 Nat West Bank 2; Winchmore Hill 1 Old Salesians 0; Midland Bank 0 Old Esthameians 0; Old Stationers 4 Alleyn OB 3; Kew Association 1 Broomfield 1; Old Westminster Cits 1 Merton 0; Brentham 2 Old Bromleians 2.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: City of London 2 Nottsborough 1; Hale End 1 Southgate County 3; Old Finchleians 5 Parkfield 2. Postponed: Ulysses v Wilan HAC v Old Owens. Senior Two: Albanian 4 UCL Academicals 1; Fulham Compton OB 8 Westerns 2; Hampstead Heathens 0 Old Grammarians 0; *Mill Hill Village 0 Old Woodhouseians 3*; Wandsworth 5 Ealing Association 4.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cholsey 3 Chalmeleians 0; Lancing 4 Salopians 1. First division: Malvernians 0 Wellingburians 3; Witleians 4 Wykehamists 2.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn OB 1 C Manning OB 2; Old Aloysians 2 Old Tenisonians 1; Old Hamptonians 6 Old Vaughanians 0; Old Suttonians 1 Latymer OB 1. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians 2 Old Isleworthians 1; Old Manorians 2 Clapham OX 0; Old Reigatians 1 Old Buckwellians 1; Old Tiffinians 2 Old Salvatorians 0; Old Wilsonians 1 Chertsey OS 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Hullbridge Sports 2 Southend Manor 2; Ilford 1 Brentwood 2; Saffron Walden 0 Stansted 8.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport 2 Torrington 0; Barnstaple 2 Calne 1; Bideford 0 Chippenham 1; Brislington 2 Elmore 0; Chard 1 Backwell 2; Melksham 2 Bristol Manor Farm 1; Odd Down 0 Taunton 2; Paulton 0 Bridgwater 2; *Tiverton 8 Keynsham 0*; Westbury 0 Mangotsfield 1.

DR MARTENS

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath 1 Sittingbourne 0; Bromsgrove 0 Rothwell 2; Crawley 0 Dorchester 1; Forest Green 5 *Tamworth 0; Gresley 2 Merthyr 0*; Halesowen 3 Nuneaton 0; Hastings 3 Atherstone 1; King's Lynn 1 St Leonards 1; Salisbury 1 Cambridge City 1; Ashford Town 2 Atherstone 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Forest Green	31	20	6	5	75	44	66
Merthyr	28	17	7	4	50	25	58
Halesowen	31	15	9	7	55	26	54
Dorchester	30	15	9	6	47	25	54
Bath	30	15	8	7	60	40	53
Kings Lynn	29	15	8	6	50	45	53
Atherstone	32	15	7	10	48	39	52
Worcester C	30	16	4	10	40	33	52
Nuneaton	32	15	5	12	61	46	50
Burton Albn	30	13	7	10	45	33	46
Crawley Town	32	12	8	12	50	51	44
Gloucester C	31	10	9	12	37	39	39
Hastings	30	10	8	12	52	53	38
Tamworth	30	11	4	15	50	52	37
Gresley Rvrs	31	11	3	17	49	62	36
Salisbury	31	8	8	15	38	57	32
Rothwell Tn	31	7	11	13	39	60	32
Bromsgrove	30	9	4	17	49	61	31
Cambridge C	27	8	6	13	41	55	30
Sittingbourne	30	8	4	18	37	53	28
Ashford Town	28	6	3	19	23	61	21
St Leonards	30	4	6	20	36	72	18

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 0 Moor Green 1; Bilston 6 Corby 0; Blakenall 1 Redditch 1; Brackley 0 Ilkeston 2; Raunds 1 Paget 1; Shepshed Dynamo 1 Hinckley 1; Solihull Boro 2 RC Warwick 1; Stafford 3 VS Rugby 2; Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Wisbech 1; Stourbridge 2 Evesham 3. Southern division: Cirencester 0 Waterlooville 1; Clevedon 2 Trowbridge 3; Erith and Belvedere 2 Weston-s-Mare 0; Fareham 6 Baldock 6; Fisher 1 Tonbridge Angels 0; Fleet 0 Margate 2; Havant 0 Dartford 1; Newport IOW 2 Cinderford 1; Witney 2 Yate 1; Weymouth 3 Newport AFC 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town 0 Wick 0; Hailsham 0 Selsey 3; Horsham YMCA 3 Mile Oak 1; Littlehampton 7 Peacehaven and Telscombe 2; Pagham 0 Redhill 2; Portfield 1 Langney Sports 5; Saltdean 1 Hassocks 2; Shoreham 0 Chichester 0; Whitehawk 2 Arundel 1.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division North: Arlesey 0 Brache Sparta 2; Bedford 0 Milton Keynes 3; Buckingham Athletic 1 Potters Bar 2; Harpenden 0 Royston 2; Hoddesdon 3 Welwyn Garden 0; Langford 2 Biggleswade 3. Premier division South: Barkingside 5 Hillingdon 2; Beaconsfield 2 Amersham 0; Brimsdown 2 Hillingdon Boro 2; Hanwell 0 Haringey Boro 1; Ruislip Manor 3 Cockfosters 0; St Margaretsbury 1 Brook House 4; Woodford 0 Harefield 0. Senior division: Holmer Green 4 Leverstock Green 0; Houghton 1 Kent 1; Stony Stratford 0 Tring 4; The 61 FC 2 Mercedes Benz 5; Ware 3 Shillington 1. O'Brien Butchers challenge: Trophy third round: Waltham Abbey 1 New Bradwell 0.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 1 Sandwell 1; Bloxwich Town 1 Chasetown 0; Bridgnorth 3 Stapenhill 1; Kings Norton 0 Willenhall 1; Knypersley V 4 Halesowen H 1; Oldbury U 5 Boldmere St M 0; Pelsall V 4 Pershore T 1; Stratford T 0 Shifnal T 3; Wednesfield 1 Rocester 2; W Mid Police 1 Rushall O 1.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 3 Chessington and Hook 0; Ash 1 Raynes Park Vale 0; Chipstead 5 Cove 1; Godalming and Guilford 0 Farnham 1; Hartley Wintney 1 Cranleigh 0; Merstham 2 Westfield 0; Netherne 1 Cobham 1; Sandhurst 1 Feltham 1; Viking Sports 1 Bedfont 2; Walton Casuals 1 Reading 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 0 Blackpool Rovers 0; Burscough 1 Vauxhall GM 1; Chadderton 1 Prescot Cables 2; Glossop North End 1 Atherton Collieries 0; Maine Road 0 Rossendale 1; Newcastle Town 1 Mossley 2; Ramsbottom 1 Clitheroe 2; Rossendale 1 Darwen 0; Salford 2 Nantwich 0; St Helens 4 Kidsgrove 2; Warrington 2 Holker Old Boys 3.

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Bromley 3 Bishop's Stortford 2; Dag and Red 2 Kingstonian 2; Enfield 3 Walton and Hersham 0; Graves*end and Northfleet 0 Purfleet 0*; Harrow 1 Carshalton 3; Hendon 2 Dulwich 1; Heybridge Swifts 3 St Albans 2; Hitchin 1 Basingstoke 2; Sutton United 2 Oxford City 1; Yeading 2 Chesham 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton Utd	31	19	7	5	62	35	64
Kingstonian	31	17	10	4	59	27	61
Dag & Red	29	17	5	7	50	32	56
Heybridge	28	15	5	8	54	38	50
Boreham Wd	25	14	6	5	52	27	48
Enfield	31	14	5	12	51	42	47
Purfleet	31	12	9	10	48	46	45
Hendon	29	12	8	9	39	40	44
Walton & H	30	13	4	13	39	48	43
Bromley	28	11	8	9	38	33	41
Dulwich	29	10	7	12	42	43	37
Harrow Boro	28	11	4	13	39	45	37
Aylesbury	29	11	4	14	40	48	37
Gravesend & N	31	10	5	16	49	58	35
Carshalton	26	9	7	10	40	47	34
Yeading	30	9	7	14	37	46	34
St Albans	27	10	3	14	35	44	33
Hitchin	30	7	9	14	33	42	30
Basingstoke	24	8	6	10	29	40	30
Bishop's S	31	9	2	20	34	51	29
Chesham	28	7	6	15	47	57	27
Oxford City	30	6	7	17	26	55	25

FIRST DIVISION: Abingdon Town 0 Chertsey 2; Aldershot Town 3 Whyteleafe 0; Barton Rovers 1 Croydon 0; Berkhamsted 1 Grays 0; Billericay 1 Uxbridge 1; Hampton 3 Wokingham 3; Leyton Pennant 0 Bognor 0; Maidenhead United 2 Leatherhead 1; *Staines 2 Molesey 3; Thame Utd 0 Romford 1*; Worthing 1 Wembley 1. Second division: Banstead 1 Wivenhoe 3; Bracknell 1 Chalfont St Peter 2; Canvey Island 2 Wealdstone 0; Edgware 3 Marlow 2; Hungerford 1 Cheshunt 0; Met Police 5 Barking 1 Northwood 2 Egham 1, Tilbury 3 *Leighton 2; Tooting and Mitcham 1* Braintree 1, Windsor and Eton 0 Bedford Town 4, Witham 3 Horsham 3. Third division: Clapton 0 Camberley 3; Dorking 1 Croydon 0, Flackwell Heath 0 Epsom and Ewell 3; Ford 1 Harlow 1; Hemel Hempstead 2 Hornchurch 1; Hertford 0 Corinthian Casuals 1; Kingsbury 0 East Thurrock 3, Southall 2 Lewes 0, Ware 2 Aveley 0; Wingate and Finchley 0 Tring 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold 2 Selby 2, Brigg 1 Thackley 1; Curzon Ashton 0 North Ferriby 1, Eccleshill 1 Hucknall 3; Glasshoughton *Welfare 1 Liversedge 2*; Hatfield Main 2 Denaby 2; Maltby MW 0 Ossett Albion 0; Ossett Town 6 Hallam 2; Pickering 1 Armthorpe Welfare 2.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 3 Desborough 2; Holbeach 0 Stotfold 4; *Kempston 0 Buckingham 6;* Long Buckby 1 Potton 0, M Blackstone 1 S and L Corby 1; St Neots 2 Cogenhoe 1, Wellingborough 1 Stamford 2; Wootton 3 Spalding 8; Yaxley 0 Eynesbury 0.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester 2 Almondsbury 3 Didcot 2 Abingdon 2; Endsleigh 1 Banbury 0; Fairford 0 Burnham 3; Highworth 1 Tuffley 2; Kintbury 3 Harrow Hill 2, *Shortwood 2 North Leigh 1;* Swindon Supermarine 3 Hallen 0, Wantage 1 Carterton 4

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton 0 Great Yarmouth 2; Fakenham 1 Sudbury Tn 1, Gorleston 1 Newmarket 2; Histon 0 Wroxham 2, Lowestoft 3 Bury Town 4; Soham 4 Harwich and Parkeston 2; Sudbury Wanderers 0 Ely 1; Tiptree 3 Diss 1, Walton 1 Halstead 1; Woodbridge 6 Warboys 2

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 1 Studley BKL 2; Coleshill 1 David Lloyd AFC 2, Dudley Sports 2 Continental Star 3; Handrahan Timbers 1 Coventry Sphinx 1; Kenilworth 4 Wellesbourne 0; Southam 4 Cheslyn Hay 3. Presidents cup: Colletts Green 3 Holly Lane 1. Leicester YMCA 2 Shirley 3; Alveston 2 Thimblemill Rec 2.

FA UMBRO TROPHY

THIRD ROUND: Altrincham 0 Southport 2; Ashton United 0 Cheltenham 1; Barrow 1 Northwich 0; Grantham 2 Hednesford 1; Hayes 2 Bashley 0; Hyde 0 Dover 2; Slough 1 Boreham Wood 1; Stevenage 1 Gloucester 1.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 0 Wolverhampton Casuals 2; Gornal 4 Wolverhampton 0; Kington 7 Darlaston 2; Ludlow 0 Tividale 1; *Lye 3 Walsall Wood 1; Malvern 5 Stafford 1;* Stourport 1 Bloxwich 1; Westfields 0 Ettingshall 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 3 Wimborne 1, Totton 2 Bournemouth 1, Aerostructures 1 AFC Newbury 0; Brockenhurst 1 Downton 1; East Cowes 0 Whitchurch 0; Eastleigh 2 Christchurch 2; Gosport 5 Romsey 0; Portsmouth RN 1 Bemerton Heath Harl 1, *Thatcham 0 Cowes Sports 1.*

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 2 Guisborough 3; Billingham Synthonia 4 Crook 2; Dunston Federation 3 Seaham Red Star 3; Easington cwm 0 South Shields 2; Jarrow Roofing 3 Stockton 1; Morpeth 0 Consett 0; Murton 2 *Penrith 6; RTM Newcastle 2* Billingham Town 4; Shildon 5 Durham 4; Tow Law 2 Northallerton 3.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 1 Portsmouth 3; Cambridge 2 Queens Park Rangers 1; Fulham 1 Crystal Palace 2, Ipswich 0 Millwall 4; *Norwich 1 Southend 2;* Tottenham Hotspurs 6 Leyton Orient 1; Watford 6 Charlton 3; West Ham 3 Gillingham 0. Second division: Colchester 4 Brighton 0; Luton 1 Southampton 1; Reading 0 Brentford 2; Wimbledon 2 Tottenham Hotspur 1; Wycombe 1 Swindon 0.

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Middlesbrough 0 Sunderland 2; Leeds 1 Nottm Forest 4

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Bradford 12 Wembley 0; Everton 5 Berkhamsted 0; Tranmere 1 Croydon 1.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 2 Total Network Solutions 0; Barry 6 Caersws 1; Connah's Quay 1 Rhyl 1, Conwy 2 Flint Town 0, Cwmbran 6 Haverfordwest 0; Newtown 0 Inter Cable-Tel 0; Porthmadog 7 Cemaes Bay 0; Rhayader Town 2 Ebbw Vale 2, Welshpool 4 Caernarfon 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barry Town	27	23	4	0	95	26	73
Cwmbran	27	18	4	5	58	30	58
Newtown	26	16	6	4	60	35	54
Bangor City	25	16	5	4	48	31	53
Inter Cable T	27	16	4	7	38	17	52
Rhyl	28	14	6	8	47	36	48
Connah's Quay	28	12	11	5	56	40	47
Ebbw Vale	25	12	8	5	52	39	44
Aberystwyth	26	10	8	8	43	41	38
Carmarthen T	26	10	8	8	43	42	38
Conwy	28	9	8	11	52	45	35
Caersws	27	10	2	15	51	55	32
Porthmadog	27	8	4	15	42	50	28
Haverfordwest	26	7	6	13	40	58	27
Rhayader Town	28	7	4	17	42	61	25
TNS	27	3	13	11	37	57	22
Flint Town	27	5	4	17	35	59	22
Caernarfon T	25	5	5	15	33	54	20
Welshpool	28	5	5	18	44	89	20
Cemaes Bay	28	2	3	23	23	84	9
Knighton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 2 Cove 2; Elgin 1 Deveronvale 0; Huntly 3 Buckie Thistle 0; Lossiemouth 2 Keith 3; Nairn County 0 Clachnacuddin 4; Peterhead 3 Forres Mechanics 1; Rothes 0 Fraserburgh 3; Wick Academy 1 Fort William 1

BASS IRISH CUP: Sixth round: Armagh 0 Ards 0; Glenavon 0 Ballyclare 0; Glentoran 3 Coleraine 2; Institute 1 Dungannon Swifts 0; Killyleagh 1 Crusaders 2; Linfield 2 Newry 1, Loughgall 1 Distillery 2; Portadown 2 *Omagh 0.*

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry City 1 Shelbourne 2; Kilkenny City 1 Cork City 2; *Bohemians* 1 Finn Harps 0.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is very low, two score draws and 22 no-score draws. Full-time: no claims required — forecast is very good; eight score draws and six no-score draws

هكذا من الأصل

Silly sideshows that demean Olympic ideal

All is not well on Mount Olympus. As the Winter Olympics fade from our television screens, we are left with a faint aftertaste of desperation. There has been some things not-quite-right about these Games.

It all began with the ill-advised decision to permit the Winter Games to break its ties with the Olympic Year. Instead of being an opulent hors d'oeuvre to the real thing, which is the Summer Games, the slippery-slidy Games must now stand on their own two feet. In other words, they must be as good as the Summer Games.

They are not. They never can be and they never will be. Standing alone, they look almost as half-baked as the Commonwealth Games. Asti Spumanti is a pleasant drink, but don't call it champagne.

And by putting the Winter Games into its own separate four-year cycle, we are asked to accept this slightly iffy occasion as the real thing. Naturally, the potential audience — that is to say, everybody in the world — feels faintly cheated.

Nobility. Now this is a serious sort of Olympic quality. There is an element of nobility in Steve Redgrave, in Fu Mingxia, the Chinese diver, or, for that matter, in Ben Johnson. They all take part in heroic events and even their failings have something of nobility.

But, increasingly, the Olympics are filled with the quality that I can only call silliness. The just-finished Winter Games have spelled that out for us. They have been filled with new and manifestly silly sports in a doomed attempt to pretend that they are just as good as the Summer Games.

Curling was an unlikely success. As the eternal snows of Japan halted all the alpine events, many of us were briefly delighted by this ancient and passionate game. Kirsty Hay, slithering up the ice with blazing mascara and hollering voice, was a national icon.

Curling is a sport with a history and a tradition and a culture. This is not the case with the made-up events. Short-track speed skating is, simply, hilarious. Look, you want to say, this rink is simply too small for what you are trying to do. No wonder you keep falling over.

Mogul skiing, with its double daffy jumps, is clearly a sport invented on a wet afternoon in the bar. As for snowboarding: well, I think the snowboarders got it right. They came, they saw, they inhaled. The passive-smoking snowboarder cocked a snook at the entire Olympic movement. Never mind

the ethics of testing for marijuana: the controversy shouldn't have happened, because there shouldn't have been a snowboarding event. Snowboarding is doubtless great fun, but messing about is not an Olympic discipline.

Matters were not helped by trouble in the traditional sports of the Winter Olympics. I know, there is always a row about judging, but this one is very loud and quite specific. There are claims that the result of the ice dance was fixed a month before the Games began.

Figure skating did not improve things by giving gold to a 15-year-old child. But the real disaster has been ice hockey. The National Hockey League of North America (NHL) shut down in order to send its stars to the Olympics — and there was no American gold medal to reward them. The United States did not even make the semi-finals; Canada lost the bronze medal play-off. I doubt if the NHL will try that one again.

The Olympic movement is an aristocrat that has turned into a toady. It toadies to American organisations (the National Basketball Association is another example); it toadies to absurd minor sports, which it needs desperately to seduce television and to lend substance to a desperately thin programme. Now there is talk about introducing indoor sports to the Winter Games: snooker and ballroom dancing. Desperate.

I had better, like a dodgy skater or a stoned snowborder, seek balance. I thoroughly enjoyed watching these Winter Games on television. Georg Hackl, the triple gold medal-winner in the men's luge, is an almost Redgravian hero.

The tale of Hermann Maier was great. Cross-country skiers are quintessential Olympians. The Dutch speed skaters were extraordinary. I adore the fancy skating, too, for all its faults. Ski-jumping is wonderful and the Japanese team victory was glorious. The British bobbers gave us a delightful coda in a minor key.

Yet the obvious daftness of the Winter Games laid bare the silliness that is an increasing part of the Summer Games. Neither the basketball dream team nor beach volleyball sit right on Mount Olympus — and has anybody worked out what those tennis players are doing?

Silliness is a dangerous thing in sport. Once a sporting event gets silly, we cease to believe in it.

The Olympic Games, be they winter or summer, depend on a precarious belief in the indefinable quality of nobility, but stand Redgrave or Hackl alongside a snowboarder or a beach volleyballer and the snowborder does not look noble by association. He just makes everybody else look daft, too. The Olympics is getting silly.

So we switch off. Simple as that.

'Wales put up the sort of fight normally seen by kittens in the path of a steamroller'

Too much too soon produces dilemma

LYNNE TRUSS

Well, if rugby's always like that, I suppose I wouldn't mind seeing some more. Clearly, I'd been cruelly misled about this apparently effortless game. I always pictured rugby as a dark, difficult, moral ordeal of a sport, something like *Gladiators* crossed with the Battle of the Somme and *Pilgrim's Progress*. However, if England's performance at Twickenham on Saturday is anything to go by, rugby is more like a light sprint in the park on a Sunday morning, with lots of people waving "This is pleasant!" and "I say, Jeremy, you *do* look well!"

Twickenham on Saturday was an intensely weird place to be, especially if you knew not-a-lot about rugby in advance. It was like having Sir Paul McCartney step out of a cake to sing you *Happy Birthday*, when you expected a couple of cards. Record books were torn up; history was made; a sell-out crowd of devotees cheered, sang and scratched their heads in wonder; and meanwhile 15 attractive men in England shirts kept demonstrating the chapter from the rugby books entitled "How to score tries from different set-pieces, and then convert them, until you reach 60 points, then stop."

"This is very good, you know," I informed the man next to me, who happened, unfortunately, to be Welsh, and to know quite a lot about rugby. "I've not been before. Look, there goes David Rees over the line again. Talk about greased lightning. Shouldn't he be one of yours, incidentally, with a name like that?" The Welshman started out quite chummy, perhaps because I was sporting a red hat (by mistake) and required urgent help with technical matters. But somehow his mood darkened halfway through the first half, and never quite seemed to recover.

It was when the scoreline changed from 6-12 to 13-12, in fact, that I first noticed the radical change in his demeanour. "All the time in the world, boy," he started to mutter to himself, in a low Welsh growl. "They've got all the bloody time in the world." I felt this was unnecessarily gloomy, but decided to respect his private grief. I stopped asking big *ingénue questions* like "Why are we winning by about a thousand points? Weren't Wales winning at first?"

Perhaps if you've followed English rugby all your life, this was a fabulous victory, but to me it was mainly perplexing. Basically, it shouldn't be this easy, should it? I have seen great victories in other sports. Great victories are about struggle, suspense, both sides raising their game to overcome obstacles until they reach a pitch of skill, willpower and superhuman effort. Sometimes skill outweighs willpower; sometimes (even better) it's finally the other way around. But breaking sweat almost always comes into it, I'm sure.

Head first: Richard Cockerill, the England hooker, comes up for air during the 60-26 victory over Wales at Twickenham. Photograph: Marc Aspland

This was not what happened on Saturday. Wales put up the sort of fight normally seen by kittens in the path of a steamroller, and England took the half-embarrassed opportunity to stroll forward and strut their stuff. I kept wondering where I'd last seen something this clinical, and then I remembered. It was the big Andalusian horses showing us tricks at the Ryder Cup opening ceremony last autumn. Jump, pirouette, back-kick, mystified applause. All that was lacking on Saturday was the voice (the same the world over) of the equestrian-event announcer.

"And now, the front five will demonstrate pushing the scrum over the line. Let's hear it for the front five! Come on, lads. More, more — yes!"

Cheers, whistle, five points.

"Paul Grayson will convert the try."

Flags, cheers, two points.

"Lawrence Dallaglio will make a burst from the scrum. Let's see it, yes, here he goes. Kyran Bracken makes a run, loops around Grayson — well done, sir! — and bursts through to score."

Cheers, five points. Conversion, two points. And so on, and so on, and so on.

I suppose the point about triumphs such as this is that the fans can treasure them for ever; all future flawed performances can be measured against them. Here was a brilliant display of passing, sprinting and dodging. Every time the ball was thrown into a lineout, Garath Archer (in natty black flying helmet) was lifted off the ground to gather it, pass it, and off they charged again.

But I wonder how satisfying it is ultimately, to win a demonstration game, in which the rules work consistently against the desperate underdog and smooth your path. The New Zealand referee wasn't a bit popular with the Welsh contingent in the crowd, I have to say; and it wasn't the startling brevity of his shorts they objected to. To me, the referee's decisions were a mystery as deep as alchemy. He stopped the game; he started it again; he pointed hither and yon. But I noticed that England got the advantage repeatedly, and that whenever I said, in non-technical language, "Oh, good, another free go!" my Welshman's head hung even lower on his chest.

So it ended up with this fabulous score of 60-26, and left me wondering if I should go again. You shouldn't push your luck in these matters. I remember the first time I saw Brighton play football, at the now-demolished Goldstone Ground. That was an historic day as well. Brighton scored two goals; they saved a penalty; joy was unconfined; and Robert, my football-wise friend, visibly shaken by my absurd good luck, said with tears in his eyes: "Don't go thinking this happens every week, because it doesn't."

But taking a 60-26 score as your first experience of international rugby — well, perhaps it's not as great as it sounds. Because from such a starting point, things must go either downhill or up, and both prospects are equally worrying. I would hate to see England play less well than this; but on the other hand, I'd hate to see them win more easily. And now Sir Paul McCartney has come round to sing me *Happy Birthday*, and some kittens are outside campaigning about a by-pass, so I'd better stop. But I wonder, aside from learning not to wear a hat in the colour of the opposing team, whatever am I to do?

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk
Please include address and daytime telephone number

Technical solutions

From Mr Philip Harvey

Sir, How much longer must we be made to tolerate mistakes by football referees and linesmen (or referees' assistants)? There are good and bad referees but even good referees get it wrong. The problem is often not about the quality of refereeing but a physical inability by referees and linesmen to see everything that goes on during a game.

When a player makes a forty-yard pass to another player in an offside position, according to the current laws of the game, a linesman is supposed to be able to judge whether the receiving player is in an offside position when the ball is kicked. This is a physical impossibility.

Football is big business and mistakes by referees and linesmen can obviously result in large financial gains or losses, not to mention the frustration suffered by the watching public.

What is incomprehensible is that, with all the money now in the game and with all the huge modern technological capability available to us, the powers that be are not able to come up with a solution.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP M. HARVEY,
57 Hainault Road,
Chigwell,
Essex
IG7 5DH.
Pmharvey@aol.com

From Mr J. A. Irvine

Sir, Reports that Nasser Hussain narrowly escaped censure for dissent in the third Test match at the Queen's Park Oval, when he momentarily seemed to question umpire Nicholls's decision for caught behind which was later justified by the action replay, calls for a further look at the use of current facilities in Test matches.

Leaving aside the questionable appeal by West Indies for a catch which was clearly wide of the bat by a good margin, why should the batsman not have recourse to the third umpire in such circumstances? Everyone in the pavilion must have been aware of the wrong decision, including the match referee.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. IRVINE,
8 Cherry Orchard,
Stoke Poges,
Slough SL2 4PY.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Derby County shine — but is it all a mirage?

From Mr Paul Rothera

Sir, Does Derby County Football Club exist? I should know the answer because every week I, with thousands of other supporters, see talented players passing the ball from the back with skill and accuracy. We visit a wonderful stadium with superb facilities and a vibrant atmosphere. The pitch stands comparison with any in the league. The team has been fifth, sixth or seventh in the Premiership since October last year. But is this all really happening?

Take last weekend's match. I listened to BBC Radio 5 Live on the way home and heard the headline "Everton have lost". It could have been "Derby County win 2-1 at Everton". Perhaps the attention that week centred on the FA Cup. I switched on Sky's *Soccer AM* on Sunday morning and an extract from the match was shown. The debate for five minutes concentrated on Duncan Ferguson's sending-off and Everton's chances of survival in the Premiership. This eventually took up all the allotted time. The seven-man move for Derby's second goal didn't get a mention.

The dialogue swiftly moved to the usual question and answers. Will Tottenham stay up? What's happening at Chelsea? What about Arsenal? So perhaps it is all a mirage.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ROTHERA,
23 St Alkmunds Close,
Duffield, Derby DE56 4ED.

Bond of support

From Mr Bob Gilbert

Sir, Lynne Truss (February 16) seems rather to have missed the point of the firemen's helmets worn by many people at the Heart of Football event (Brighton and Hove Albion v Doncaster Rovers) played in Gillingham.

Far from being a derogatory gesture toward the Rovers, the helmets were worn by supporters of both clubs as a direct reference to Mr Richardson (self-styled benefactor of the Rovers) who is to stand trial for conspiring to burn down the Rovers' main stand.

Your report does not do justice to the close bond and active co-operation between the two sets of supporters.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. GILBERT,
Highfield,
Chapel Road,
Kempsford,
Fairford,
Gloucestershire.
100670.1760@compuserve.com

From Mr Aron Baker

Sir, Whilst it is fair to say that the Brighton v Doncaster match was not of the highest quality, as you would expect from two teams at the bottom of the league, I think the occasion was far more important.

It highlighted the fact that even though Brighton and Doncaster aren't "fashionable", they are still cared about immensely, not just by Brighton and Doncaster fans, but by true football fans who do not want to see the game at this level die out.

Yours etc.,
ARON BAKER,
18 Forest View Road,
East Grinstead,
West Sussex RH19 4AR.

Entry to Europe

From Mr Richard Wilson

Sir, If the top two teams in the Premiership are also the FA Cup finalists, who will compete in Europe in next season's Cup Winners' Cup?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILSON,
14 Trinity Road,
Richmond,
Surrey
TW9 2LD.

Victims of a system

From Mr James Palmer

Sir, When I was an oarsman in the late 1970s, neither I, my team-mates nor our coaches had any doubt that our East German opponents used drugs to enhance their performances. Nor did we have any doubt that our opponents and their coaches were deprived of the freedom of will that we all took for granted.

The essence of a good coach to us was, and to current athletes is, the ability to impart exceptional sporting technique and to inspire outstanding mental and physical performance.

Should we now revisit a happily distant era in sporting history and condone an attack on a man undoubtedly as much a victim of an oppressive political regime as its own unfortunate athletes? Jürgen Gröbler, as national coach, has now enabled a small number of this country's outstanding athletes to achieve, entirely properly and consistently, the world's leading performances in their field. It is what they ask of him and we ask of them.

Should we now deprive a victim of that system of an honourable and respectable rehabilitation, our own leading athletes of his abilities, and ourselves of a national pride in their performance?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PALMER,
6 Gledhow Gardens, SW5 0BL.

Abiding by law

From Mr Bernard Hayman

Sir, Your sailing correspondent refers (February 16) to single-handed ocean racing being "technically illegal" because international maritime law calls for a proper lookout.

There is room for discussion about the precise implications and wording of the regulations, but if a particular action is recognised as being illegal, how can anyone expect our national authority, the Royal Yachting Association, to defy international law and to sponsor illegality?

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD HAYMAN,
8 Abbeywater Court,
2 Weston Lane,
Southampton SO19 9SH.

This week in THE TIMES

Tomorrow
Women in the Long Room? *The Times* canvasses views from both sides of the debate and asks whether MCC should admit women members.

Wednesday
Big-time tennis returns to London with Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman in action. Julian Muscat reports.

Friday
Alan Lee assesses England's prospects in the fourth Test match in Guyana.

Saturday
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match, Oliver Holt, Frank Leboeuf and Danny Baker.

Five Nations Championship: France two steps ahead in thought and deed as Scots capitulate

Telfer rues slow-motion display

Scotland 16
France 51

By Mark Souster

IT IS inconceivable that France will not go on to win their second successive grand slam this season; what they would consider their two most demanding internationals are behind them and such is their extreme confidence that neither Ireland nor Wales can hope to deny them. France ensured a Scotland side that was brave and committed but ultimately outclassed was on the wrong end of a third consecutive record home defeat, one in which they conceded 50 points in the Five Nations Championship for the first time.

The transformation in France's fortunes has been dramatic since the defeat by 50 points to South Africa. That embarrassment confirmed in the mind of Jean-Claude Skrela that he needed a fresh start under a new captain, Raphael Ibañez, to whom the France coach gives much of the credit for the renaissance. He wanted a leader and found one in the tough Dax hooker.

Out went the old guard, among them Cabannes, Lacroix, Merle and Saint-Andre, to be replaced by the the core of the side that won the Students World Cup two years ago.

On Saturday they were simply irresistible, playing the game at high pace and with an instinct and skill that Scotland could not hope to match. They ran lines and angles of attack that were alien to the Scots and which proved impossible to defend against.

They concentrated much of their effort down Scotland's left flank, where Kenny Logan's defensive naivety and tendency to drift off his wing were exposed. Philippe Bernat-Salles, the scorer of two tries, will rarely enjoy such an easy afternoon.

In thought and deed the French were two steps ahead. If Scotland tried to defend close, their opponents spread the ball wide; if Scotland went wide, France drove through the middle. Their support of the ball carrier, their ability to exploit space and to move the ball out of contact, the instinctive nature of so much of their play confirmed to Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, that this is the best France team in terms of footballing ability that he has seen. Underpinning it all as well is cast-iron defence.

Olivier Magne epitomised what this team is about. The French openside made three of his side's tries, two scored by Bernat-Salles. The first after 32 minutes with a huge miss-pass in midfield. Magne broke in midfield and at pace down the right, as he was tackled he put in the sweetest of grubber kicks behind Logan and Bernat Salles pounced. Magne was also the last link in the move that led to Califano's try, which the prop finished with aplomb by coming off his right foot.

"It was one of my best performances but the best is yet to come. I hope the French team make the same match against Ireland. Fifty points against Scotland is a good performance," Magne, the man of the match but who was given a yellow card for a late tackle on Derrick Lee, said.

Magne talked of building a rapport with an initially sceptical French crowd, of the development and potential of the squad who, he says, "take pleasure from playing", and of the need for a healthy and competitive Five Nations Championship that increasingly looks to be the property of France and England.

"It is very important for European rugby if we in the northern hemisphere are to win the World Cup," Magne said. "I think France is building a good team. The Latin player is very proud. When we take a great defeat we don't want to see it happen again."

After Chalmers had kicked two penalty goals in the opening ten minutes, France retaliated with a 22-point burst in 18 minutes that effectively ended the match as a contest. Marc Lièvremont scored the first try from France's first attack when he drove over from a ruck, and the No 6 showed devastating speed to score the second when he looped around Sadourny.

If France had not gone walkabout in the third quarter the margin of victory would have been greater. It was not until injury-time that Carbonneau and then Castaignède scored tries. Scotland's only score by Tony Stanger, his 23rd on his fiftieth appearance, resulted from a mistake by Castaignède.

It all left Telfer in rueful mood. Scotland were, he admitted, slow-motion. "But we don't have a magic wand. We had our best players out there." For Telfer that is the stark reality. For Skrela, a glorious new dawn beckons.

SCORERS: Scotland: Try: Stanger (68min). Conversion: Chalmers. Penalty goals: Chalmers 3 (4, 10, 23). France: Tries: M Lièvremont 2 (14, 22), Bernat-Salles 2 (32, 55), Califano (47), Carbonneau (80), Castaignède (82). Conversions: Lamaison 2, Castaignède 3. Penalty goals: Lamaison 30, Castaignède 52.

SCORING SEQUENCE: (Scotland first) 3-0, 6-0, 6-7, 6-14, 9-17, 9-22 (half-time), 9-27, 9-30, 9-37, 16-37, 16-44, 16-51.

SCOTLAND: D J Lee (London Scottish); A G Stanger (Hawick), A V Tait (Newcastle), G P J Townsend (Northampton), K M Logan (Wasps); C M Chalmers (Melrose; rep: S L Longstaff, Dundee HSFP, 77min), G Armstrong (Newcastle, captain); D I W Hilton (Bath; rep: G Graham, Newcastle, 61), G C Bulloch (West of Scotland), M J Stewart (Northampton), D F Cronin (Wasps; rep: S B Grimes, Watsonians, 21), G W Weir (Newcastle), R I Wainwright (Dundee HSFP), S D Holmes (London Scottish), P Walton (Newcastle; rep: A J Roxburgh, Kelso, 61).

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); P Bernat-Salles (Pau), C Lamaison (Brive; rep: D Auzagne, Pau, 40), S Glas (Bourgoin), C Dominici (Stade Français); T Castaignède (Castres), P Carbonneau (Brive), C Califano (Toulouse), R Ibañez (Dax, captain), F Tournaire (Toulouse; rep: C Soulette, Béziers, 77), O Brouzet (Bègles-Bordeaux), F Pelous (Toulouse; rep: T Cleda, Pau, 80), M Lièvremont (Stade Français), O Magne (Brive), T Lièvremont (Perpignan; rep: P Benetton, Agen, 77).

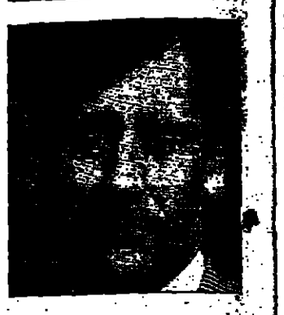
Referee: P O'Brien (New Zealand).

PETER KEMP

Glas, left, leaps high in celebration as Califano, the France prop forward, goes crashing over for a try against Scotland at Murrayfield

Playing at pace gives Skrela total satisfaction

JOHN HOPKINS at Murrayfield



At midday on Saturday Edinburgh was bathed in spring sunshine, the light bouncing cheerfully off the city's glorious buildings. Yet the weather could do nothing to dispel an air of anxiety among the Scots. Somehow France's one previous win in 20 years at Murrayfield and Scotland's narrow victory against Ireland two weeks before did not seem much of a bulwark against the fear of what France might do.

As it transpired, such apprehension was well placed. France played stunning rugby. To score 50 points in a Five Nations Championship match would have been a record, but for the fact that England had done it 60 minutes earlier.

Pace, pace and more pace had done for England in Paris two weeks earlier. It did for Scotland on Saturday even more comprehensively. Rugby conducted at the pace that France have now played their past two games is wonderful to watch and difficult to play against, not only for the obvious reason that it all happens so quickly, but for the fact the ball is moved so speedily from one point of attack to another, and then on to a third, so that sooner or later a gap will appear in the defence.

New Zealand are the best team in the world at making sure that periods of pressure result in points. But France are learning from New Zealand. They are developing the devastating technique of scoring tries in flurries — two in nine minutes against England, three in 18 minutes against Scotland.

> 'Powerful incentives are driving France to new heights'

It is a "dream team", in which big, strong forwards can run and handle like backs and threequarters can maul for the ball with success. What better demonstration can there be of the interchangeability that is integral to France's style than the fact that Marc Lièvremont, a flanker, scored two tries and laid the foundations for a third? That Olivier Magne, a flanker playing the game of his life, set up a try for Bernat-Salles with a deft little grubber kick that would have done credit to a fly half? And that Califano, the loose-head prop, should have ended a move that involved in its later stages the scrum half, No 8, right wing, flanker, and then the loose-head prop? How significant it is with this style of rugby that France's seven tries were almost equally shared among forwards and backs.

Little wonder that Jim Telfer, the Scotland director of rugby, described France as, man for man, the best footballing side that he had ever seen, a tribute that pleased Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach. "To play at pace is hard for the players," Skrela admitted. "But they have to have the will to put the patterns of modern rugby into place. They have to get themselves and their fellow players into the right positions so that the ball can be moved."

Powerful incentives are driving this France team to new heights. The first incentive is to satisfy the demands of Raphael Ibañez, the iron-willed and bull-necked captain. The second, no less important, is to erase the memory of the humiliating 52-10 defeat by South Africa last November. That game enabled Skrela to continue the dismantling and rebuilding process; only six of his team at Murrayfield had also played against South Africa.

"The Springbok game was not the worst moment of my life," Skrela said. "The worst moment of my life came in the two months following that defeat. I was convinced there was not such a big gap against France and South Africa."

Magne spoke for this new-look France team when he predicted: "Never again will France lose by 50 points." If they carry on demonstrating the same levels of skill and, in the main, the same commitment to discipline, there is no reason why they should.

By nightfall in Edinburgh, the afternoon sunshine had been replaced by a dreary rain. Was it tears of frustration at the enormity of what Scotland have to do before falling further behind? Telfer talked of it being an uphill struggle in his country, with so few players from whom to choose. Perhaps not, though. Perhaps it was nervous apprehension at the thought of what France might do to Ireland on Saturday week.

SCOTLAND 16 v 51 FRANCE

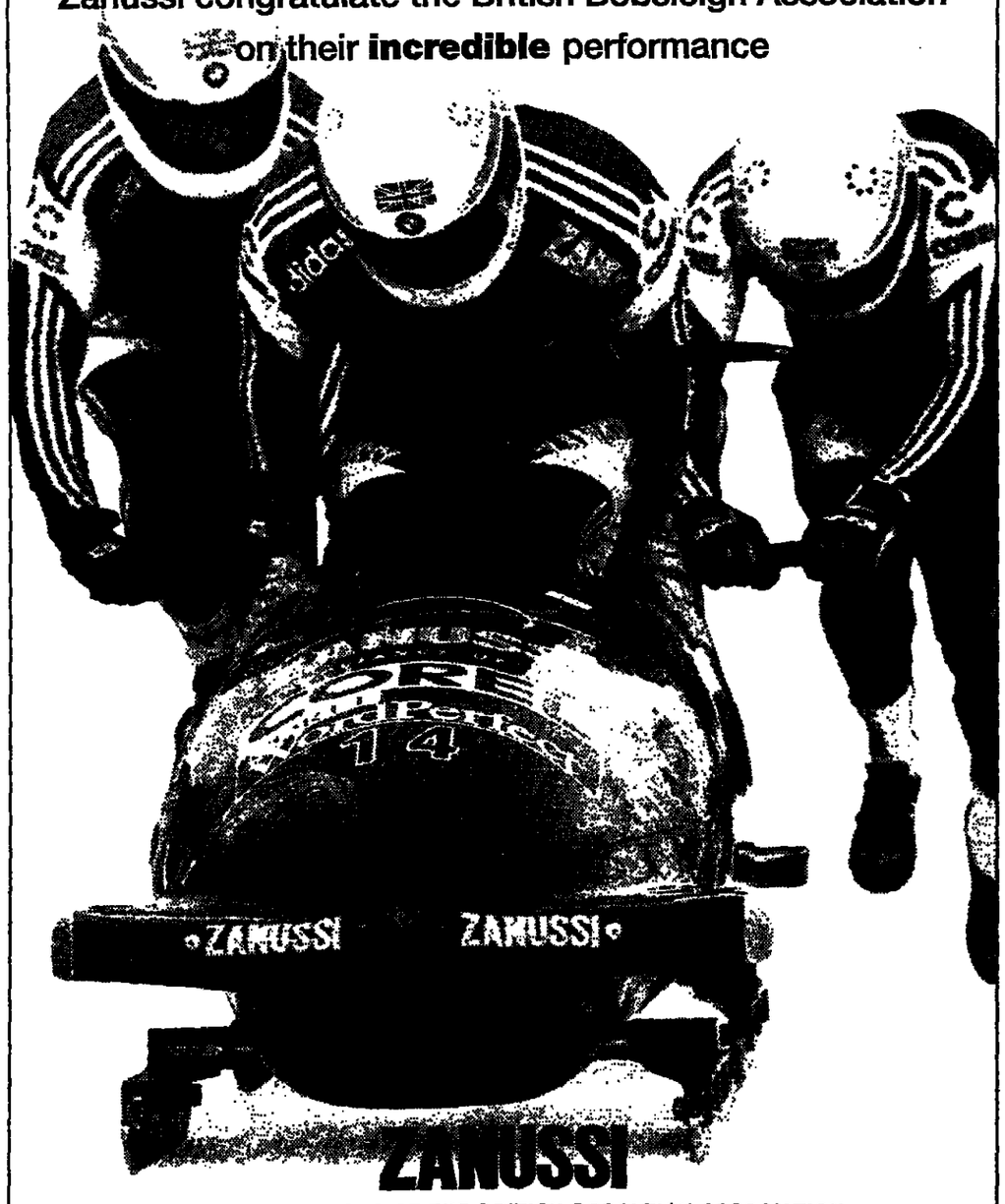
SCOTLAND		FRANCE
1	TRIES	7
0	PEN TRY	0
1	CONVERSIONS	5
0	CONV MISS	2
3	PENALTY GOALS	2
2	PENALTY MISS	1
9	FIRST HALF	22
7	SECOND HALF	29
	Minutes in possession	
00:07:06	1st half	00:07:12
00:06:59	2nd half	00:10:41
	Minutes in opponents' half	
00:20:57	1st half	00:20:40
00:11:36	2nd half	00:27:25
	PENALTIES (22)	
10	Conceded	12
8	Conceded in own half	9

SCOTLAND		FRANCE
60	RUCKS WON	43
4	MAULS WON	11
49	GAIN LINE CROSSED	37
22	SET PIECE BALL WON	26
64	BALL WON IN OPEN PLAY	54
8	HANDLING ERRORS	16
1	FREE KICKS AWARDED	1
	SCRUMS (32)	
19	PUT IN	13
17	WON	13
0	LOST	0
0	Infringements/incomplete	0
0	Awarded in opponents' 22	4
	LINEOUTS (24)	
6	THROW IN	7
5	WON	7
0	LOST	0
2	Infringements/incomplete	0
1	Awarded in opponent's 22	4

Source: UNISYS

Well done boys

Zanussi congratulate the British Bobsleigh Association on their **incredible** performance



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THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

Brewer adds the winning touch

West Hartlepool 20
Orrell 11

By a Correspondent

MIKE BREWER, the West Hartlepool player-coach, left the comfort of the stand to stamp his authority on this match. Victory maintains West's challenge for promotion to the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Brewer, capped 34 times for New Zealand, began the match as a replacement, but brought himself on at No 8 after 47 minutes and his influence was the key to West overturning an 11-8 half-time deficit into a comfortable win.

"We were making basic and uncharacteristic errors at the base of the scrum," Brewer said. "We had a dominant scrum but were not taking advantage of it, so I decided to bring myself on."

The result lifts West into third place, one point behind London Scottish — Bedford are virtually assured of promotion, unbeaten all season in the second division. West meet the Exiles in their next league game on March 7, and, providing that they improve on this error-ridden performance, they look good bets for automatic promotion. Orrell may have to settle for a play-off position.

Simon Verbickas opened the scoring for Orrell with a penalty goal, but Steven Vile replied in kind for West.

Orrell made no mistake in the 27th minute when Verbickas again surged through before Alex Moffat, the hooker, put right wing Jamie Bartle in for an unconverted try. Verbickas added a penalty goal and, although West huffed and puffed, they failed to blow the Orrell defence down until injury time, when Nu'ualiitia ran a penalty close to the visitors' line and Emmet Farrell played the scoring pass to Jon Benson.

Brewer's introduction saw West intensify their efforts and it paid dividends in the 57th minute, when Philippe Farner sent out an American football-style pass to Michael Wood on the left touchline and the wing squeezed in at the corner.

West sealed victory when Vile jinked through to score under the posts.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: Benson (40min), Wood (57), Vile (70). Conversion: Vile. Penalty goal: Vile (10). Orrell: Try: Bartle (27). Penalty goals: Verbickas 2 (2, 35).

SCORING SEQUENCE (West Hartlepool first): 0-3, 3-3, 3-8, 3-11, 8-11 (half-time), 13-11, 20-11.

WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Ferrall; M Wood, S John, J Connolly, J Benson; S Vile, T Nu'ualiitia; S Sparks, T Herben (rep: A Peacock, 58min), P Beal, J Ponton, P Farner, M Gilchrist, S Cassidy, I Morgan (rep: M Brewer, 48).

ORRELL: D Trivella; J Bartle, P Horrocks (rep: M Oliver, 60), D Wright, S Verbickas; N Ryan, C Harrison; S Kelly, A Moffat, S Turner, P Manley, P Reed, C Clasen, P Millachip (rep: M Lacey, 72), B Crookh.

Referee: G Hughes (Manchester).

SAILING: EF LANGUAGE APPEARS ASSURED OF THIRD-LEG WIN IN WHITBREAD

Flying Dutchmen put wind up fleet

THE sole Dutch entry in the Whitbread Round the World Race, *BrunelSunergy*, has looked like an also-ran from the day the fleet set sail from the Solent last September. Initially skippered by Hans Bouscholte and, since Fremantle, by Roy Heiner, the garishly painted yellow, red and blue boat has done little more than dispute last place with the all-female crew of *EF Education*.

For much of this fifth leg from Auckland to the land of carnival, *Brunel* was sailing true to form. She made a bad navigational error early on and was way off the pace in the Southern Ocean. Then, in either an inspirational move or a complete fluke, Stuart Quarrie, the British navigator on board, decided to go outside the Falkland Islands.

Suddenly the Dutch jumped to second place behind the runaway leg leader, *EF Language*, skippered by Paul Cayard, with the other top boats held up to the west of the Falklands. To the consternation of their skippers, *Brunel* has held on to her advantage and is throwing a spanner in the works of this race.

If the Dutch can hold on for their first podium finish, they will be going a long way to sealing Cayard's eventual overall victory and relegating his nearest rivals to a scrap for second place. If yesterday's positions are maintained to the end of this leg, Cayard will emerge with 307 points, while his nearest rival in the overall standings, Grant Dalton in *Merit Cup*, would be almost 100 points behind on 411.

Yesterday Heiner and his exhausted crew had just under 1,000 miles left to sail as they continued up the coast of Argentina off Buenos Aires. They were still to the east of the main pack and were averaging 16.5 knots while the boats to the west could only make 12-13 knots. Their lead over third-placed *Chessie Racing*, skippered by Dee Smith, who is also on the eastern side of the track, was 45 miles. Smith, in turn, was 26 miles ahead of Gunnar Krantz in *Swedish Match*.

From Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent
in São Sebastião

Arend van Bergeijk, a *Brunel* crew member, reported his boat was falling off steep waves going downwind in up to 35 knots of breeze. "Everybody is slowly getting tired, with most limbs hurting from grinding, driving and holding sheets," van Bergeijk wrote. "A few broaches now and then, but nothing too alarming — seems like after the Southern Ocean we are not scared anymore. We did two jibes with masthead spinnakers at 30-35 knots and not a problem."

Cayard, meanwhile, has less than 500 miles to sail and is scheduled to arrive here early tomorrow. He was averaging a steady 10.6 knots and still had a huge lead of 465 miles over *Brunel*, keeping him firmly on course for his third leg win of the race.

هكذا من الأصل

Five Nations Championship: Wales pay dearly for their confidence with humiliating defeat

Rees sprints around an airborne Charvis, the Wales flanker, to score his first try as England run riot at Twickenham on Saturday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

England regroup with record-breaking romp

England.....60
Wales.....26

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SATISFACTION comes in different forms. For England, players and management, the reversal of events in Paris a fortnight earlier and the sound of critics crunching on their own words were sweet on Saturday night. An avalanche of points such as the Five Nations Championship has never known made for entertainment — and, at the back of one's mind, a sense of emptiness.

Poor England, will they never make us happy? But even their coaches admitted that they remain light years away from the efficient standards of the southern-hemisphere powers and, if that is the case for the English, where does that leave Wales, Scotland and Ireland? The Welsh arrived at Twickenham believing that they would win — and their reward was a lasting the like of which no championship side has ever received.

England equalled their highest total in international rugby, against Japan in 1987 and Canada in 1994, and could easily have outstripped it. They did so in this Lloyds TSB match after a shaky first quarter and an indifferent final quarter that may have been easy on the eye but left the heart wanting more. Yet, in that middle period, they dealt what may prove irreparable damage to the Welsh psyche.

However, England cannot be blamed for the shortcomings of others. They looked at their own, in the wake of defeat by France, and took remedial action. The satisfaction of their fourth try, touched down by Lawrence Dallaglio but the reward for an eight-man shove that trundled Wales back across their own line, will have been intense, because it showed that their set-pieces were restored to working order. Wales wilted in the scrums while the England lineout worked better than at any stage this season, which reflects well on Richard Cockerill's throwing, a rejuvenated performance by Martin Johnson and Gareth Archer's best game for England.

Such supremacy was aided and abetted by Wales. For 23 minutes, they could not have wished for a better opening: two tries by Bateman, signs of weakness in the England defence and a lack of poise at fly half from Grayson allowed them to shrug off the departure of Walker with a dislocated collarbone — which will prevent him playing again for the rest of this season — and a lack of authority from Quinnell just when they needed it. But a trail of penalty awards kept England in the game and, from five of them, directly or indirectly, they scored.

Six minutes and three tries turned the game on its head, a fourth try took England to 34 points at half-time and the contest was over. Wales knew it and played like it, the crowd knew it and a rash of replacements confirmed it. The theory is that fresh legs help to finish off a beaten opponent. Invariably, however, it breaks up rhythm, the newcomers strain to play a whole game in ten minutes and the spectacle is devalued.

Yet the whole was money in the bank for England. They needed such a game to believe that they can play the way that Clive Woodward wants them to play; they did not bully their way to victory, as England sides have in the past, but played a varied game, using the ball rather than their own bulk as the weapon. Of course they employed the strength and size of their forwards, notably when Dallaglio opted for attacking lineouts and scrums on the Wales line — but such players as Rees, Healey and Guscott, making his fiftieth appearance, enjoyed themselves equally.

The two wings displayed their footballing skills to outstanding effect. Both read the game well, a quality that is such a strength of Perry at full back. The young Bath player had the character to ignore the mistake, a high ball bouncing off his shoulder, that let in Bateman for his first try and do what comes naturally — run with the ball, look for gaps and use his pace. All of a sudden, the England back division looked liberated.

England distributed their eight tries equally in each half, Grayson completing a perfect afternoon with nine kicks out of nine before he was replaced, a tally that includes seven conversions, the greatest number kicked by an Englishman in the championship. Wales had the limited satisfaction that Bateman's second try echoed a proud tradition, Gareth Thomas running from his own line to halfway, Williams providing support and Arwel Thomas, Bateman and Proctor completing the 95-metre move.

Their other scores, worthy enough, were merely gestures: England set out their stall with a clinical release of Rees through the midfield, the prelude to the deluge. Guscott, with a marvellously sinuous piece of running, dispatched Rees for his second and the Sale wing was intimately involved with that by Greenwood, whose soft passing so frequently brought the best out of colleagues. John Mitchell, the assistant coach, had accused his forwards of being soft a few days earlier. Wales take leave to disagree.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Rees 2 (29min, 50), Beck (32), Bracken (35), Dallaglio (40), Healey (58), Greenwood (69), Dawson (73). Conversions: Grayson 7. Penalty goals: Grayson 2 (2, 17). Wales: Tries: Bateman 2 (10, 23), G Thomas (55), Gibbs (81). Conversions: Jenkins 3.
SCORING SEQUENCE (England first): 3-0, 3-7, 6-7, 8-12, 13-12, 20-12, 27-12, 34-12 (half-time), 41-12, 41-19, 48-19, 55-19, 60-19, 60-26
ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath); D L Rees (Sale), W J H Greenwood (Leicester; rep: P R de Glanville, Bath, 71min), J C Guscott (Bath), A S Healey (Leicester); P J Grayson (Northampton; rep: M J Catt, Bath, 71), K P P Bracken (Saracens; rep: M J S Dawson, Northampton, 71); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), P J Vickery (Gloucester; rep: D J Garforth, Leicester, 57), M O Johnson (Leicester; rep: D J Grewcock, Saracens, 57), G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N A Back (Leicester), R A Hill (Saracens; rep: A J Diprose, Saracens, 57).
WALES: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); G Thomas (Bridgend), A G Bateman (Richmond; rep: L B Davies, Cardiff, 65), I S Gibbs (Swansea), N K Walker (Cardiff; rep: W T Proctor, Llanelli, 4); A C Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff, captain); A L P Lewis (Cardiff; rep: L Mustoe, Cardiff, 77), B H Williams (Richmond; rep: J M Humphreys, Cardiff, 65), D Young (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), M J Voyle (Llanelli; rep: C Stephens, Bridgend, 73), C L Charvis (Swansea), M E Williams (Pontypridd), L S Quinnell (Richmond; rep: R C Appleyard, Swansea, 50).
Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand).

ENGLAND 60 v 26 WALES

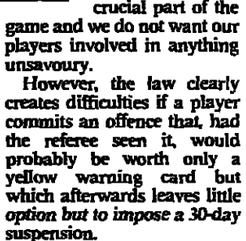
ENGLAND		WALES
8	TRIES	4
0	PEN TRY	0
7	CONVERSIONS	3
1	CONV MISS	1
2	PENALTY GOALS	0
0	PENALTY MISS	0
34	FIRST HALF	12
26	SECOND HALF	14
Minutes in possession		
00:13:13	1st half	00:16:12
00:12:50	2nd half	00:08:55
Minutes in opponents' half		
00:25:30	1st half	00:18:12
00:21:17	2nd half	00:18:16
PENALTIES (27)		
8	Conceded	19
3	Conceded in own half	10

ENGLAND		WALES
45	RUCKS WON	46
9	MAULS WON	0
39	GAIN LINE CROSSED	21
22	SET PIECE BALL WON	16
54	BALL WON IN OPEN PLAY	46
8	HANDLING ERRORS	6
4	FREE KICKS AWARDED	2
SCRUMS (22)		
8	PUT IN	14
8	WON	9
0	LOST	0
3	Infringements/incomplete	2
4	Awarded in opponents' 22	0
LINEOUTS (24)		
17	THROW IN	7
14	WON	7
1	LOST	0
1	Infringements/incomplete	2
4	Awarded in opponent's 22	1

Source: UNISYS

Players take step in the right direction

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



When a player goes on to the field, he goes out to win, whether by one point or 60. The pleasure comes not from inflicting a massive beating on the opposition but from the way in which you play the game and I was extremely pleased with the variety and the flexibility of our game on Saturday.

People may have thought that we might be introverted after the defeat in Paris, that we might revert to tried and tested methods, but that is not what we are about. We want to develop a game that will make us the best team in the world and Saturday was a step in that direction. Nevertheless, the fitness and skill levels have to be improved. We need to be technically more proficient.

Teams have highs and lows, peaks and troughs, but what we must avoid, if we want rugby to remain a global game, is a situation where 24 countries turn up for the World Cup and only five have a chance of winning it. Wales have talented players and I am sure that they will bounce back from this and win matches, but we, as a team, can only go out and play as well as we can.

We managed to show the variation that was lacking against France and we showed it for 80 minutes, which was lacking against New Zealand in December. When we did get behind Wales, we put the tries away and we showed the pace that some England teams of the past have not always shown. Moreover, the quality of the individuals who came on as replacements showed the competition that exists in the squad.

'Fitness and skill levels have to be improved'

There have been some complimentary remarks about the decision-making in the second quarter, when we scored three tries in six minutes, but the game is about applying pressure. When you have three points staring you in the face, you take them, but you must also play to the strengths of the team and we had a clear advantage at the scrum. At the lineout, too, we had more options than Wales.

The team and I felt that the right thing to do at that stage was not to kick at goal, even though, in Paul Grayson, we have a kicker in world-class form. Going for seven points rather than three applies even more pressure; whether they come from a drive through the forwards or a second or third-phase release for the backs, the end result was the same.

I was never worried that Wales had started well, because their first try came from our mistake — about the only mistake that Matt Perry made all afternoon, while the ball bounced luckily for Allan Bateman — and because their second came from ball that we kicked away. It was important that we had the confidence to keep hold of the ball and certain individuals looked particularly sharp.

The only blemish on the occasion was the suspension yesterday of Phil Vickery for foul play. I haven't seen the incident, but discipline is a crucial part of the game and we do not want our players involved in anything unsavoury.

However, the law clearly creates difficulties if a player commits an offence that, had the referee seen it, would probably be worth only a yellow warning card but which afterwards leaves little option but to impose a 30-day suspension.

That appears to have been the case with Phil. Here was a young man playing his first international in an area of the game that was under particular scrutiny and he did a fantastic job for us. I am sure that English supporters, players and Phil himself will try to remember his debut for all the right reasons.

Vickery given month's suspension for punch

ENGLAND'S glee at their victory over Wales was tarnished by the suspension of Phil Vickery, the Gloucester tight-head prop, who was playing in his first international (David Hands writes). Vickery was cited by Welsh Rugby Union officials for punching Colin Charvis and has been suspended for a month, which will prevent him playing against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 22.

The incident took place in the 51st minute, when Charvis appeared to be playing the ball in an offside position and was charged back by Vickery, who then punched the Wales player in the ribs. "I feel hard done by," Vickery, 21, said. "It was a spur-of-the-moment incident. I've just got to get on with it, serve the ban and hope to get back in for my second cap against Ireland."

Clive Woodward, the England coach, was less philosophical. Woodward, who suspended Martin Johnson in November for a punch thrown during the game with New Zealand at Old Trafford, said: "The punishment did not fit the crime. The whole procedure has been ridiculous. If the referee had seen the offence, at worst it would have been a yellow card, at best it would have been a penalty, and by now the whole thing would have been over."

Vickery will also miss three Allied Dunbar Premiership games with Gloucester. Meanwhile, the International Rugby Football Board must hear a citation by the Rugby Football Union on Andy Moore, the Swansea lock, after an incident with Ben Clarke, of Richmond, during the A international at Leicester on Friday between England and Wales.

Inspirational Perry shatters hopes of recovery

GERALD DAVIES

At Twickenham

The corner that Wales had hoped to have negotiated by this stage would appear to be as far off as ever. The many long faces and dejected hearts returning from Middlesex show that many think it may never happen.

The rugby world has changed and a country such as Wales, with a small player base, may be unable to cope with the expectations of a professional game. This is too darkly pessimistic to contemplate.

Hopes of recovering their poise and confidence within the Five Nations Championship and being considered a threatening presence in Europe once more this season were shattered at Twickenham on Saturday.

This was the first match of the championship for Wales, against one of the two powerful countries who are continuing to dominate northern-hemisphere rugby. A good performance was what most Welshmen expected, thinking that this was their best chance of a victory at Twickenham for ten years. With such optimism it came as a heartrending shock to find Wales at the receiving end of a record defeat.

There was a distinct air of unreality about the ending, the crowd oddly subdued; the match had ended as a contest some time ago.

It was a strange game. That England should have accomplished so much after their own depressing French experience makes the margin of the Twickenham victory even more puzzling. Who would have thought in the first 25 minutes that England would ultimately exercise such an aptitude for scoring tries as to produce the onslaught that was to come?

At this stage Wales had already scored two tries and were showing signs of a developing maturity whereas England, although having enjoyed a fine opening spell, seemed hesitant and uncertain.

Their midfield looked curiously vulnerable, as was their scrummage in the early stages when they were forced into disarray. Yet, by the end of the first half, they had contrived a pushover try.

The crucial point came between the 28th and 34th minutes when England scored three tries to turn the tide of events irrevocably in their favour.

Even though the referee blundered in his decision to award a penalty to England when Healey scrapped for the ball on the ground and stopped Proctor from releasing the ball and from which England's second try emerged, this period dented Wales's psychology and they never recovered.

The England management will no doubt praise the teamwork but it was the individual performances within it that provided the difference. Each of the threequarters at some stage played crucial roles with speed and wit, beginning with Perry behind them. The full back, with his penchant for running, offers a big potential for England. He is not the last line of defence, as full backs are so often perceived, but rather the first inspirational point of attack.

Perry: point of attack

He provides width to the game, deflects attention from other players around him offering a variety of options, which is complemented by the ever-present Neil Back. Jenkins cannot do the same for Wales.

With Perry's interventions England created spaces for the runners in their team to flourish. As their confidence grew, each of the threequarters was able to beat the first-time tackler, a luxury that rarely came to Wales.

Yet for all the tries scored against them and the margin of the loss, there remains the feeling that Wales were not as bad as the final scoreline suggests, nor England so superior.

For sure, though, Clive Woodward's tenacious adherence to his philosophy has England on the way to scoring the kind and number of tries that a world ranking demands.

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Winter Olympic Games: Great Britain already building on success in four-man bobsleigh

Olsson paves way to achieving gold standard

FROM ROB HUGHES IN NAGANO

THE Olympic Games remain a quite intoxicating and illusory experience. How else would we explain the three weeks in the Nagano Alps where the weather is so fickle, that the Games go on day after day, and Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, gives a concluding speech in which he genuinely thanks the leaders of the world for observing the Olympic truce?

So, the war did not start in the Gulf during the eighteenth Winter Olympics. Equally, at the foothills of one of these mountains that ring this industrial city, the Brits celebrated like mad on Saturday night a half-share in the bronze medal of the four-man bobsleigh event. Great Britain had achieved the final rung of 24 nations out of the 72 that came here to compete, and had reached medal status.

Do not misunderstand: the effort by Sean Olsson, a corporal in the 1st Parachute Regiment who has done time on the streets of Belfast, in steering his bob down the exacting spiral fractionally slower than the virtually full-time Germany team that won gold was full of virtue and merit. It will also secure for bobsleigh, and possibly other sports, National Lottery funding without which Britain may as well not turn up for the Olympics.

Olsson is a committed man. He would by now have gained seniority in the Army, at least to sergeant, had he not had this obsession to share the cramped space inside a gleaming, fibreglass contraption, hurtling at 128kph down a refrigerated, artificial ice track.

He returns home today to a family he has seen for only six days since Christmas; he returns soon to his colonel, to debate whether going on with the quest for gold is a rational part of a military man's existence. Olsson was red-faced with emotion on Saturday and scarcely aware of the earth tremor that had shaken this region to the degree of five on the Richter scale.

But, as we stood talking less than an hour after the triumph, a rumble in the hill above us interrupted the conversation. First thoughts, inevitably, were that the earth might be moving again. It was, however, the sound of Britain's future in bobsleigh.

For once, no one can accuse the British Olympic Association of underfunding or underplanning. This, by special request and after all 32

contestants had registered their time, was a training run by Lee Johnston, 25, a Royal Marine Commando, a judo black belt, athlete, rugby player and swimmer and the possible successor to Olsson.

Johnston has been identified as the next pilot in Britain's determined attempt to recapture prominence in an event that combines all-round athleticism with technology and consummate driving ability.

Now that Britain has found a winter sport in which it could attain its first Olympic medal outside the ice rink for 34 years, Horst Hornlein, the former East German army officer whose expertise as a coach has been indispensable to Britain, said: "With pilots you have to be patient. An iron discipline." This, he said, is the ultimate difference between Germans and Swiss he has trained, men whose precision and discipline is exact, and the English, who he finds to have "looseness and humour".

Hornlein was a winner at the 1972 Sapporo Games, in the luge. He wishes to remain committed to Britain, certain in his mind that the difference between bronze this time and gold the next is a matter of finance and planning, rather than the calibre of the competitors.

Olsson and his crew will doubtless go on. They received £197,000 from the lottery last October, just in time to allow Olsson and his team — Dean Ward, Courtney Rumbolt and Paul Attwood — to gain experience here in December and, more pertinently, to increase their training tempo and to defray some of the cost, the sacrifice, that these men — two military, two civilian — were willing to make for a medal.

Olsson made no pretence that, after a brilliant first run, his steering almost cost them dear. "To be honest, my confidence was slightly down after the second run," he said. "We took a knock going into the first corner again, but through corners eight to ten, we slid and took another knock that made the difference. My line was perhaps a metre out. It happens, it's a sport."

A sport and yet, in the modern Olympics, rather more than that. Olsson has a young boy of 6 and a daughter of 4. He rationalised that his first priority must be to consider them, the future of his family and of his occupation as a weapons instructor.

As the the closing ceremony took place, though, Olsson, the Britons and the athletes of the world were cast in a strange, wonderful atmosphere. People had actually been moved out of their homes in case the 5,000 fireworks ignited them, and the ignition in central Nagano was of a spirit yet to be completely dampened by commercialism, politics or any other of man's worst inventions.

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

From right, Olsson, Ward, Rumbolt and Attwood celebrate after the run that brought Britain's only medal of the Games

Daehlie toil rewarded with record

FROM ROB HUGHES

THE final two gold medals of the Winter Olympics in Nagano yesterday exemplified the diversity of man and sport. In the morning, Bjorn Daehlie, of Norway, slogged through 2hr 05min 08.2sec to capture his third gold medal of the Games and a record eighth in all in the men's 50-kilometre freestyle skiing event. After lunch, in the blink of an eye, Petr Svoboda, a defender, scored the only goal of the ice hockey final, to win the first gold of the Games for the Czech Republic.

Svoboda gilded an astonishing Games for the Czech Republic in which their President, Vaclav Havel, rising from his sickbed to watch the entertainment, had already declared a national holiday after victories over the United States and Canada. Even though 12 of the Czech squad earn multimillion-dollar salaries in the land of the spoilt American ice hockey giants, the extreme hunger of their players could clearly be seen.

Conversely, Daehlie's persistence over the past fortnight has been a constant drip-feed of power and doggedness. He is surely the supreme athlete on skis, one who knows his own body, the qualities of opponents and the judgment of pace and distance better than anyone. Yesterday was his fifth race in 13 days and, at the finishing line, he had covered 115

Simon Barnes	33
Olympic results	39

kilometres at racing speed, the equivalent of almost three marathons.

His self-belief was breathtaking. Tenth at one stage, he gradually, stride by stride, moved to second place after 30 kilometres, and in the final ten kilometres picked off the last opponent to win with 8.1sec to spare over Niklas Jonsson, of Sweden, who finished 45 seconds ahead of Christian Hoffmann, of Austria.

These Games are a landmark for Daehlie, who has collected more Winter golds than any man or woman before him. They will also be remembered for the spectacular courage of the downhill skier Hermann Maier, of Austria, whose mother had to be sedated after seeing his horrific crash and then rejoiced as her son came back to win two gold medals. Deeper still was the achievement of Masihiko Harada, the Japanese ski jumper who, eventually, won the gold medal that his people had demanded for four years.

And then there was the child, the saccharin smile of Tara Lipinski, the 15-year-old American figure skater, who, rather than spending her days at school, will now learn to add up to $10 million (about £6 million), the projected earnings that her agents in the US confidently predict will come through endorsements. To the Czechs, the Norwegians, Olympic achievement is a long time in waiting; to the young American, it comes hand in hand with puberty.

Tomba bows out with a whimper

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALBERTO TOMBA'S Olympic career ended on a low note when he limped out of contention as Hans-Petter Buraas, of Norway, gained his first significant slalom title in Nagano on Saturday.

Tomba's bid for his fourth gold medal in four successive Winter Olympics ended after the first run. The 31-year-old Italian, languishing in seventeenth spot, said that he was still suffering from his fall in the giant slalom earlier in the week and, with no hope of a medal, he pulled out of the second run.

Tomba has earned alpine skiing a higher profile with his blazing runs and playboy lifestyle, but Japan has never been a happy hunting ground for him. He has never managed to win a race there and said: "I just want to go home. I don't know what it is about Japan but I never have any luck."

Buraas clocked a combined time of 1min 49.31sec. With his hair dyed red, the newest member of the Norway team was more than a second faster than his nearest rival, his team-mate Ole Christian Furuseth. "I risked everything. I even broke the tip of my ski. Now all I want to do is to stay at the top," Buraas said.

Furuseth, at 31 the veteran of the Norway team, clocked 1min 50.64secs to win his first significant championship medal. It represented a dramatic return for Furuseth, who competed in the 1992 Games but failed to qualify for Lillehammer four years ago.

"I've waited a long time for this. I took a chance at the top and it paid off. I am delighted with the silver," Furuseth, who was the World Cup overall runner-up seven years ago, said.

Thomas Sykora, of Austria, who led after the first run, paid the price for an error halfway down the 65-gate course which cost him vital hundredths of a second and relegated him to third place. Thomas Stangassinger, of Austria, the defending champion, finished in sixth place.

Desert boys get a feeling for snow

BY DAVID POWELL

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

FROM the unlikely sources of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, George Watts and Giles Hugo are writing their names in snow. They are two of Britain's youngest and brightest skiing prospects and, if their private addresses suggest that they should be more at home on camels than on skis, there is more than one curiosity to cross.

Watts and Hugo attend school in Cheltenham. You can take skis to Cheltenham but you cannot ski there. Not a dry slope in sight. So we have two young skiers from the desert regions resident in an English town with no skiing facility. Yet, when the English Schools Ski Association sent out letters seeking to assemble a junior squad for training in the Italian Alps, Watts and Hugo were among those who received invitations.

Where these two, and three of their fellow pupils, Adam Gellatly, James Holmes and Freddie Tuppen, are fortunate is that they go to Cheltenham College Junior School. Skiing there is a feature of school life. "We are as proud of the skiers as we are of our girls in hockey and netball and our boys in rugby and cricket," Nigel Archdale, the headmaster, said.

The school transports dozens of young enthusiasts eight miles to Gloucester Ski Centre every Monday for expert tuition. So successful is the programme that it will be providing the English Schools junior squad with as many skiers as any school when it heads for Courmayeur next month.

It was as a result of finishing third in the English Schools under-12 team championship that the five boys were invited to Courmayeur. Hugo, Tuppen and Watts are 12, Holmes 11 and Gellatly 10. Inevitably, given their age and the limits of dry slopes skiing, all are slalom skiers.

Archdale jokingly refers to Watts and Hugo "skiing down the dunes", though skiing holidays with their parents laid the foundations for their interest. "You can do sandboarding in Dubai and I am also a snowboarder," Watts said. "My parents were keen skiers and, every Christmas, we would go to the Alps in France."

Hugo skies in the Gulf, but on water; winter holidays are spent on snow.

Chris Boulton, the master in charge of skiing, considers Gellatly an outstanding prospect. "A lot of skiers are not necessarily team players who are going to make their mark in the team structure of major sports," he said. "Skiing gives them an opportunity to excel away from major sports. This is particularly true of Adam, who is fearless."

They start young at Cheltenham College. "We make it fun and they go away thinking that they have had a wonderful time but, subtly, you try to improve their concentration and aggression," Boulton said.

Founded in 1863, Cheltenham is a preparatory school for boys and girls aged three to 13. Of 395 pupils, 55 are on the skiing programme this term. Archdale is only the tenth headmaster in the school's 135-year history.

"Remarkable longevity of service from those who have gone before me," he said.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Carling Premiership

Liverpool v Everton (8.0).

Vauxhall Conference

Hednesford v Farnborough (7.45)
Kidderminster v Stalybridge (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
First division

Hamilton v St Mirren

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley v Radcliffe
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Oxford Utd (at Worthing FC, 7.0); Norwich v Southampton.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE. First division: Bolton v Wolverhampton (7.0)
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Erith v Herne Bay (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: International match. Austria v England (in Vienna).
TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford v Port Vale (7.45); Huddersfield v Sunderland (7.45); Ipswich v Oxford Utd (7.45), Reading v Manchester City (7.45); Stockport v Norwich (7.45); Tranmere v Nottingham Forest (7.45); West Bromwich v Portsmouth (7.45). Second division: Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (7.45); Burnley v Wrexham (7.45); Chesterfield v Oldham (7.45); Fulham v Bournemouth (7.45), Gillingham v Northampton (7.45); Grimsby v Blackpool (7.45), Luton v Wigan (7.45), Preston v Carlisle (7.45), Southend v Plymouth (7.45); Walsall v Brentford (7.45); York v Bristol City (7.45) Third division: Cardiff v Rotherham; Chester v Torquay, Doncaster v Darlington; Exeter v Brighton (7.45); Hull v Barnet, Leyton Orient v Hartlepool (7.45), Lincoln v Scunthorpe (7.45), Mansfield v Macclesfield (7.45); Notts County v Swansea (7.45); Peterborough v Scarborough (7.45), Rochdale v Cambridge Utd (7.45); Shrewsbury v Colchester (7.45).
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hereford v Hayes (7.45) Telford v Northwich (7.45)
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee Utd v Hibernian; Kilmarnock v Rangers (7.45) Second division: Queen of South v Clydebank.

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Saracens v Sale (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fifth-round replays: Barnsley v Manchester Utd (7.45); Blackburn v West Ham (7.45); * Crystal Palace v Arsenal (7.45); Wolverhampton v Wimbledon (7.45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Bury (7.45); Middlesbrough v Crewe (7.45); Queens Park Rangers v Sheffield Utd (7.45), Stoke v Charlton (7.45) Second division: Millwall v Watford (7.45)
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Dunfermline; Hearts v Aberdeen; Motherwell v St Johnstone First division: Falkirk v Ayr; Partick v Dundee Second division: Brechin v Inverness CT; Clyde v Forfar; East Fife v Stenhousemuir; Livingston v Stranraer. Third division: Alloa v Cowdenbeath; Dumbarton v Montrose

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship: Belarus v England (in Minsk)
TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park)

THURSDAY

ICE HOCKEY: Express Cup: Final: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Bracknell Bees (at Newcastle Arena, 8.0)
TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Colchester v Peterborough (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English women's indoor national championships (at Yarmouth)
SQUASH: Super Series final (at Hatfield)
TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Liverpool; Barnsley v Wimbledon; Blackburn v Leicester; Chelsea v Manchester Utd; Crystal Palace v Coventry; Derby v Sheffield Wednesday; Everton v Newcastle; Leeds v Southampton.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bury v Swindon; Charlton v Huddersfield; * Crewe v Reading, Manchester City v West Bromwich; Norwich v Queens Park Rangers; Oxford Utd v Stockport; Portsmouth v Tranmere; Sheffield Utd v Bradford; Sunderland v Ipswich; Wolverhampton v Birmingham (1.0). Second division: Blackpool v Fulham; Bournemouth v Preston; Brentford v York; Bristol City v Southend, Carlisle v Burnley; Northampton v Grimsby; Oldham v Millwall; Plymouth v Luton; Watford v Bristol Rovers; Wigan v Chesterfield; Wrexham v Walsall; Wycombe v Gillingham. Third division: Barnet v Shrewsbury; Brighton v Chester; Cambridge Utd v Mansfield; Darlington v Rochdale; Hartlepool v Doncaster; Macclesfield v Notts County; Rotherham v Leyton Orient; Scarborough v Hull; Scunthorpe v Cardiff; Swansea v Exeter; Torquay v Lincoln.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover v Telford; Gateshead v Kettering; Halifax v Farnborough (5.0); Hayes v Stevenage; Kidderminster v Yeovil; Leek v Northwich, Morecambe v Slough; Rushden and Diamonds v Stalybridge; Southport v Woking; Welling v Hednesford.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberdeen v Kilmarnock; Dunfermline v Motherwell; Hibernian v Celtic; Rangers v Hearts; St Johnstone v Dundee Utd. First division: Airdrie v Falkirk, Ayr v Partick, Dundee v St Mirren; Hamilton v Raith; Stirling v Greenock Morton Second division: East Fife v Clyde, Forfar v Clydebank; Livingston v Queen of South; Stenhousemuir v Inverness CT; Stranraer v Brechin. Third division: Berwick v Arbroath; Dumbarton v Alloa; East Stirling v Queen's Park; Montrose v Cowdenbeath; Ross County v Albion.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Quarter-finals: Northampton v Newcastle (2.0); Richmond v Saracens; West Hartlepool v Sale.
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bath v Harlequins, Bristol v Leicester Second division: Fylde v Wakefield (2.30); Moseley v Blackheath.
SWALEC CUP: Sixth round: Aberavon v Maesteg (2.30); Abertillery v Aberavon Quins (2.30); Builth Wells v Narberth (2.30); Cwmgors v Caerphilly (2.30), Garndiffaith v Rumney (2.30); Llandovery v Neath (2.30); Merthyr v Llanelli (2.30); Newbridge v Cardiff (2.30); Penygraig v Tredegar (2.30); Pontypridd v Treorchy (2.30); Seven Sisters v Cross Keys (2.30); South Wales Police v Newport (2.30); Tondu v Swansea (2.30); Tonyrefail v Ebbw Vale (2.30); Cardiff Institute v Mountain Ash (2.30), Ynysybwl v Llanharan (2.30).
TENNENTS VELVET CUP: Fifth round: Currie v. Gala; East Kilbride v Hawick; Edinburgh Academicals v Watsonians; Heriot's FP v Stirling County; Jed-Forest v Glasgow Hawks; Kelso v West of Scotland; Kilmarnock v Melrose; Kirkcaldy v Boroughmuir.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fifth round: Castleford Tigers v Bradford Bulls (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship: England v Israel (at Nynex Arena, Manchester, 8.0).
SQUASH: Super Series final (at Hatfield).
TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham v Bolton (4.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough (1.0); Port Vale v Stoke (1.0).

RUGBY UNION

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Quarter-final: London Irish v Wasps (3.0).

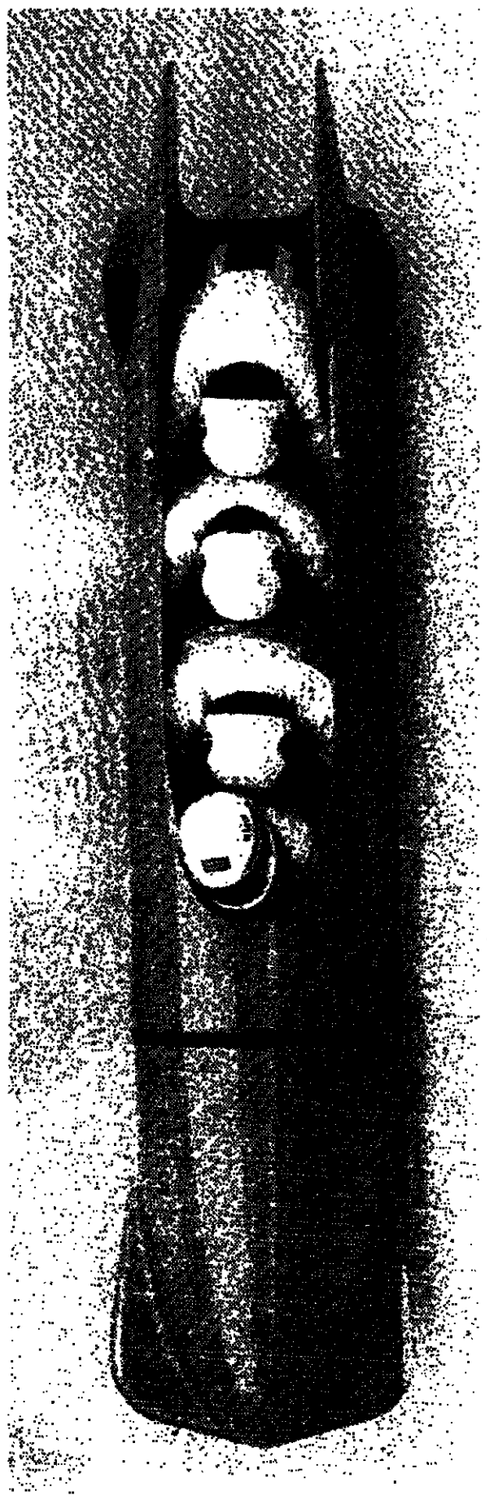
RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fifth round: Dewsbury Rams v Wigan Warriors; Hull Sharks v Bramley (3.15); Hull Kingston Rovers v Swinton Lions; London Broncos v Halifax Blue Sox (2.30); Sheffield Eagles v Egremont (3.15); St Helens v Workington Town (1.45); Widnes Vikings v Salford Reds.
FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone Rovers v Dewsbury Rams (3.30); Hunslet Hawks v Leigh Centurions (3.30); Rochdale Hornets v Keighley Cougars.

OTHER SPORT

SQUASH: Super Series final (at Hatfield).
TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park).



Four headcases.

When it comes to headcases, the BMW System Helmet takes some beating. At Nagano, it didn't just set the standard for speed and aerodynamics. It also helped the members of the British, and 15 other world-class teams, gain high marks for style and technical merit. So whether you are looking for something to grace the King's Road or to take on an ice wall at over a hundred kilometres per hour, it will pay to wear a BMW System Helmet.

The Ultimate Riding Machine

RACING

Summer jumping feels the heat from Nicholls

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

FOR many — excluding those who inhabit the British Horseracing Board's race planning department — the idea of staging jump racing during the summer makes as much sense as holding the first Test at Lord's in January, followed by Wimbledon and the Boat Race two weeks later.

Indeed, the term "summer jumping" is a contradiction in terms for a sport whose proper and natural place in the calendar is during the winter — not to mention a waste of racing's precious finances. More worryingly, could this fad be a contributory factor behind the illnesses and viruses which have proliferated many jumping stables — notably those in Lambourn — this season?

Paul Nicholls, who is just four winners away from his best season's tally after three successes on Saturday — including the impressive Ottowa in the John Hughies Grand National Trial at Chepstow — is convinced one of the reasons for his outstanding season is a deliberate decision to steadfastly avoid summer jumping.

"I don't like summer jumping and we don't participate. I like the old system where you have a month or six weeks when the yard is completely empty. I am convinced that is a big help," he said yesterday.

The trainer added: "We give the yard a complete month off and there is not a horse on the place. We open all the windows and get everything cleaned out. Everyone used to do that and I am sure that is the correct way.

"If you have horses in all the time and have some bugs about, you will never get rid of them. I am sure in the long term that makes a big difference."

Just over six years have passed since the former jumps jockey took out a licence to train at Manor Farm stables in Ditcheat, Somerset. After threatening to break into the big time during the past two years, when he achieved a half-century of winners each campaign, the youthful-looking handler, 35, has come of age this term.

A good team, centred around Clifford Baker, the head lad who came from David Nicholson's yard, Nicholls and his wife, Bridget, is coupled with excellent facilities and a generous supply of decent horses. A stiff uphill gallop, which rises 250 feet, is used for fitness work while a flat five-furlong stretch is devoted to speed work. "It's all interval training."

He added: "We have got a system and I hope I have learnt along the way. The thing about this job is you learn every day and you make mistakes. I try to eradicate those mistakes and learn from them."

Interestingly, all bar five of his 53 winners this season have been achieved over fences and he will be relying on a small-but-select team of chasers at the Cheltenham Festival, led by See More Business, the King George VI Chase winner, in the Gold Cup.

Lake Kariba, who beat Queen Of Spades handsomely at Warwick on Saturday, is pencilled in for the Arkle, while Torduff Express, who runs at Fontwell this afternoon, is booked for the four-mile National Hunt Chase.

The focus of attention this week inevitably will be on the Royal Courts of Justice as the libel trial of Jack and Lynda Ramsden and Kieren Fallon versus *The Sporting Life* reaches its conclusion. What is likely to pass less noticed this Friday is the formal takeover of the *Racing Post* by Mirror Group Newspapers, owners of *The Sporting Life*.

The Mirror group plans to turn *The Sporting Life* into a general sports paper, leaving the *Racing Post* as the only racing trade paper, although the timing of the changeover is still to be fixed. Up to 80 journalists — mostly on *The Sporting Life* — are expected to go.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Torduff Express (2.30 Fontwell Park)

Despite having to concede upwards of 7lb to his rivals, Torduff Express can continue Paul Nicholls's good run. He has taken well to chasing and should not be inconvenienced by today's faster ground.

Next best: Serenus (4.30 Fontwell Park)

ED BYRNE

Ottowa clears the last on his way to an impressive victory at Chepstow on Saturday

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.45 Frolicking. 2.15 Nuit D'Or. 2.45 Marytavy. 3.15 Antonias Melody. 3.45 Faym. 4.15 Malozza. 4.45 Moonraking. 5.15 Tempering.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.45 ADRIATIC MAIDEN HANDICAP (Div I: 3-Y-O: £1,735: 1m) (9 runners)

101	(3)	450-	PORCELLINO 194 K Burke 10-2	B Coughlan (7)	—
102	(8)	6-48	KILLARNEY JAZZ 17 J Wharton 9-6	T Lucas	67
103	(2)	-400	SKY MOUNTAIN 7 S Bowring 9-3	C Teague (3)	58
104	(6)	-494	MARIANA 18 R Whitaker 9-0	Dean McKeown	70
105	(9)	000-	THE CANNIE ROVER 149 M W Easterby 9-0	S Finnamore (7)	54
106	(4)	-004	FROLICKING 19 N Littmoden 8-10	K Pierrepont (7)	60
107	(5)	4546	AVERHAM STAR 3 (B) D Shaw 7-13	T Williams	55
108	(1)	0-83	MUSALSE 3 P Haslam 7-12	L Charnock	49+
109	(7)	-000	MR FUND SWITCH 17 D Nicholls 7-10	F Norton	50

7-4 Mariana, 4-1 Killarney Jazz, 5-1 Musalse, 8-1 Sky Mountain, Averham Star, 10-1 Frolicking, 12-1 Porcellino, 20-1 others.

2.15 ADRIATIC MAIDEN HANDICAP (Div II: 3-Y-O: £1,735: 1m) (9)

201	(3)	05-5	PIPE MUSIC 53 (V) P Haslam 9-7	C Lowther (3)	67
202	(9)	000-	UP THE WALL 114 John Berry 9-3	J Quinn	58
203	(7)	82-0	PERCY 21 J Hetherton 9-2	T Siddall (7)	71
204	(4)	0-84	NUIT D'OR 26 (B) M Johnston 9-0	D Holland	78
205	(5)	0250	MYSTERY MAN 2 P Haslam 8-12	P Goode (7)	75
206	(8)	000-	SILVER HOPE 133 R Hollinshead 8-9	W Ryan	63
207	(2)	5424	RIVER FRONTIER 13 M Usher 8-1	P Doe (5)	66
208	(6)	00-5	TIGGY SILVANO 20 M Quinn 7-13	A McCarthy (5)	61
209	(1)	-300	JOCKWEILER 7 (B) D Chapman 7-11	L Charnock	64

5-2 Nuit D'Or, 7-2 River Frontier, 4-1 Mystery Man, 6-1 Pipe Music, 8-1 Jockweiler, 10-1 Percy, 12-1 Up The Wall, 25-1 others

2.45 BALTIC CLAIMING STAKES (£2,085: 1m 4f) (8)

301	(2)	44/0	DALERIVER 10 R Bastiman 7-9-7	H Bastiman (5)	—
302	(6)	2116	EVEZIO RUFO 7 (B,CD,S) N Littmoden 6-9-3	P Roberts (3)	80
303	(4)	-122	PRIVATE DESPATCH 6 (S) M Quinn 8-8-1	A McCarthy (5)	66
304	(7)	-342	ERRANT 17 D Cosgrove 6-8-13	M Rimmer	75
305	(3)	00/	JIMMY-S 543 M Wane 5-8-13	L Charnock	—
306	(8)	261-	MARYTAVY 23J (C) P R Webber 4-8-13	K Fallon	74
307	(5)	0226	FLOTILLA 10 (B) S Mellor 4-8-6	G Bardwell	74
308	(1)	00-	KOMPLETELY 67 J Neville 4-7-13	F Norton	40

2-1 Marytavy, 11-4 Private Despatch, 3-1 Evezio Rufo, 5-1 Errant, 14-1 others.

3.15 CASPIAN FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,189: 7f) (11)

401	(9)	0-41	ANTONIAS MELODY 3 (CD,G,S) S Bowring 5-10-6 (6ex)	C Teague (3)	70
402	(4)	34-0	THE BARNSLEY BELLE 49 (CD) J Eyre 5-9-4	D Holland	78
403	(10)	-502	MOLLY MUSIC 7 (C) G Margarson 4-8-12	A Clark	87
404	(8)	0431	CATS BOTTOM 7 (C,F) A Newcombe 6-8-5 (6ex)	J Quinn	75
405	(7)	030-	PERSIAN FORTUNE 168 W G M Turner 3-8-3	S Righton (7)	69
406	(11)	3342	RIVER ENSIGN 3 (C,G) W Brisbourne 5-8-2	A McCarthy (5)	65
407	(3)	0-00	GIRL OF MY DREAMS 28 (D) M H-Ellis 5-8-1	T Williams	70
408	(1)	0-25	BELLA'S LEGACY 7 R Bode 5-8-0	Martin Dwyer	74
409	(2)	-806	PATIMA 19 R Hollinshead 4-7-11	P M Quinn (7)	76
410	(6)	00-1	WELCOME LU 7 (C,D,F,G) J L Harris 5-7-10 (6ex)	F Norton	70
411	(5)	0-60	KOMLUCKY 14 (V,D,F,G) A Mulholland 6-7-10	D Wright	65

7-2 Cats Bottom, 9-2 River Ensign, 5-1 Antonias Melody, Welcome Lu, 8-1 Molly Music, Bella's Legacy, 12-1 The Barnsley Belle, 14-1 others.

3.45 HUDSON BAY MAIDEN STAKES (£3,550: 6f) (14)

501	(9)	0/45	AJNAD 18 (B) R Marvin 4-9-10	T G McLaughlin	70
502	(13)	0-00	TAKE NOTICE 10 M Wane 5-9-10	D Holland	50
503	(12)	5	DURST 9 Lord Huntingdon 4-9-5	Aimee Cook (5)	63
504	(14)	5-32	FAYM 10 (B) J Wharton 4-9-5	A McCarthy (5)	75
505	(7)	0-	CUE MAN 271 J Eyre 3-8-9	O Pears	43
506	(1)	22-6	ERRO CODIGO 7 S Kettlewell 3-8-9	P Fredericks (7)	69
507	(10)	0000	KANTONE 5 (B) P Evans 3-8-9	K Fallon	54
508	(2)	0-5	KEYSER SOZE 5 D Haydn Jones 3-8-9	A Mackay	—
509	(6)		PREMIER BARON T Clement 3-8-9	G Carter	—
510	(4)		SAND HAWK D Shaw 3-8-9	J Fanning	—
511	(5)	5-	FRENCH PRIDE 205 A Dickman 3-8-4	J Quinn	54
512	(8)	-64	KATIE'S KITTY 14 M W Easterby 3-8-4	S Finnamore (7)	65
513	(11)	0-5	SABO'S JOY 40 C Allen 3-8-4	Martin Dwyer	59
514	(3)	00-	SCORRILOUS 128 M Bell 3-8-4	M Fenton	54

3-1 Faym, 4-1 Katie's Kitty, 7-1 Durst, Erro Codigo, 8-1 Scorrilous, 10-1 Cue Man, Sabo's Joy, 16-1 others.

4.15 PERSIAN GULF SELLING STAKES (£1,736: 6f) (11)

601	(3)	6214	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 3 (CD) R Hollinshead 7-9-12	F Lynch	73
602	(1)	0400	BOFFY 10 (C,D,F,G) B Baugh 5-9-7	A Culhane	66
603	(4)	00-6	LENNOX LEWIS 47 (B,D,F) D Nicholls 6-9-7	A Nicholls (7)	69
604	(5)	0550	SENSE OF PRIORITY 10 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 9-9-7	Alex Greaves	64
605	(6)	-304	SILK COTTAGE 14 (F) R Bastiman 6-9-7	H Bastiman (5)	65
606	(2)	-064	SIR TASKER 12 (C,D,F,G) J L Harris 10-9-7	J Quinn	63
607	(11)	0	DUBAI NURSE 10 A Dickman 4-9-2	J McAuley (7)	—
608	(7)	000-	MARGARETROSE ANNA 280 B Baugh 6-9-2	D Wright	43
609	(8)		AHERNE B Palling 3-8-6	T Sprake	—
610	(9)	00-2	MALOZZA 5 (V,C,D) P Evans 3-8-1	A McCarthy (5)	77
611	(10)		TIME FOR LAGER J Wharton 3-8-1	L Charnock	—

5-2 Sense Of Priority, 3-1 Bold Aristocrat, 4-1 Silk Cottage, 5-1 Malozza, 8-1 Lennox Lewis, 12-1 Sir Tasker, 25-1 Margaretrose Anna, 33-1 others.

4.45 BERING HANDICAP (Div I: £1,735: 1m 3f) (9)

1	(5)	-463	FIELD OF VISION 17 (F,S) Mrs A Swinbank 8-10-0	N Day	63
2	(9)	-222	MOONRAKING 7 (B,CD) T Etherington 5-9-7	A Culhane	76
3	(8)	6214	AJDAR 7 (CD) Mrs S Lamyman 7-9-1	C Teague (3)	75
4	(3)	4-20	AFRICAN-PARD 16 (BF,F,S) D Haydn Jones 6-8-5	S Drowne	70
5	(2)	4-00	NAKHAL 12 (B) D Murray Smith 5-8-3	C Lowther (3)	59
6	(6)	00-0	GILLING DANCER 10 (F) P Calver 5-7-12	Darren Moffatt (3)	54
7	(1)	-435	SHEEFIN 21 J Parkes 4-7-10	J Quinn	60
8	(4)	-350	MISLEMANI 28 (F,G) A Newcombe 8-7-10	Martin Dwyer	64
9	(7)	P0-0	SWANDALE FLYER 28 N Bycroft 6-7-10	J Bramhill	59

5-2 Ajdar, 7-2 African-Pard, 4-1 Moonraking, 9-2 Field Of Vision, 10-1 Sheefin, 12-1 Gilling Dancer, 14-1 Mislemani, 20-1 others.

5.15 BERING HANDICAP (Div II: £1,735: 1m 3f) (8)

1	(8)	0625	DIESEL DAN 24 (V,BF,F) J Jenkins 5-9-12	D Holland	69
2	(5)	2111	PICKENS 17 (CD,F) Ennco Incisa 6-9-3	Kim Tinkler	74
3	(4)	-415	AREISH 20 (CD) D Nicholls 5-8-6	F Norton	70
4	(2)	0-00	TEMPERING 24 (CD,F) D Chapman 12-8-3	P Fessey (3)	59
5	(3)	-650	FOOLISH FLUTTER 16 (B,G) R Bastiman 4-8-1	L Charnock	70
6	(6)	0/30	MODEST HOPE 24 (CD,F,S) Mrs S Lamyman 11-8-0	A Mackay	72
7	(7)	0-00	CAROL AGAIN 28 (CD) N Bycroft 6-7-12	J Quinn	49
8	(1)	-535	SIDNEY THE KIDNEY 12 M Ryan 4-7-10	G Bardwell	60

7-4 Pickens, 7-2 Areish, 4-1 Diesel Dan, 7-1 Sidney The Kidney, 10-1 Foolish Flutter, Modest Hope, 16-1 Carol Again, 25-1 Tempering.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fontwell Park: 2.00 The Proud Pound. Southwell: 2.15 Nuit D'Or, Pipe Music. 2.45 Flotilla. 3.45 Ajnad. 4.15 Lennox Lewis, Malozza.

Testing time at Buckfastleigh

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

RACING returned to Buckfastleigh in Devon on Saturday after a break of 21 years, but it could have been 21 days. A few hedgerows had gone and a busy dual-carriageway now borders one side, but the racing has changed little and the public turned up in force.

Even the ghosts seemed to have their say — moved on from their haunt in the old grandstand — rolling angry cloudbursts in from Dartmoor, which dramatically altered the going.

The honour of riding the reopened course's first winner went to James Young, 24, who rode the 14-year-old, Good For A Laugh, to victory in the members'.

Interpretation, who won the men's open, was on offer at 7-2 in places, a generous price considering he represented the successful Victor Dartnall-Jamie Jukes team.

Steve Craddock, 20, on only his second ride, made positive use of Uckerby Lad's stamina to win the first division of the maiden but, after Cornish Harp had taken the other division, rain lashed down and it became desperately hard for competitors.

Only Billy Barter, of nine starters, completed the course without mishap in a division of the restricted. The rain proved too much for Gunner Boon, who looked tired when unseating Pip Jones in the ladies' open, smoothing Searcy's path to victory.

Butler John was an absentee from the day's final race, which went to Nearly Splendid. He caught The General's Drum on the line — a fitting end to a memorable day.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS: BROCKLESBY (Brocklesby Park): Hunt: 1, Edge Of Night (N Wilson, 4-11 fav); 2, Needwood Joker; 3, Houselope Spring. 5 ran. Confined: 1, Ryders Wells (S Walker, 14-1); 2, Double Collect; 3, Bervie House. 15 ran. Ladies: 1, Cache Fleur (Miss G Chown, 4-5 fav); 2, Fettle Up; 3, Indie Rock. 13 ran. Open: 1, Mr Dick (S Swiers, 7-1); 2, The Point Is; 3, Cookawn Lady. 14 ran. Rest: 1, Tiderunner (S Walker, 5-1); 2, Grants Carouse; 3, Duke Of Lancaster. 12 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Chester Ben (S R Andrews, 6-1); 2, Environment Focus; 3, Dash To The Phone. 15 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, El Cordobes (A Dalton, 9-1); 2, Tombola; 3, Canebreak Boy. 8 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Old Bombay (Miss S Brotherton, 7-4 fav); 2, Handfast Point; 3, Cuba. 15 ran.

SOUTH POOL HARRIERS (Buckfastleigh): Hunt: 1, Good For A Laugh (J Young, 6-1); 2, Probation; 3, First Design. 9 ran. Men's Open: 1, Interpretation (J Jukes, 3-1); 2, Auburn Castle; 3, Doubting Donna. 11 ran. Mdn I: 1, Uckerby Lad (S Craddock, 16-1); 2, Flying Fellow; 3, Get Stepping. 13 ran. Mdn II: 1, Cornish Harp (R Darke, 7-4 fav); 2, Cross Rhodes; 3, Battle Lord Cisto. 11 ran. Rest (Div I part I): 1, The Bold Abbot (Miss S West, 7-2); 2, Eyre Point; 3, Sprngcombe. 10 ran. Rest (Div I part II): 1, Billy Barter (Miss S Vickery, 2-1); 2, Baman Powerhouse; only 2 finished. 9 ran. Rest II: 1, Comedy Gayle (I Widdicombe, 12-1); 2, Big Bands Are Back; 3, Bucks Flea. 13 ran. Ladies: 1, Searcy (Miss L Blackford, 25-1); 2, Cabbery Rose; 3, Hensue. 8 ran. Confined: 1, Nearly Splendid (T Greed, Evens Jt fav); 2, The General's Drum; 3, Bianconi. 6 ran.

SUFFOLK (Ampton): Hunt: 1, Cool Apollo (G Pfenderleith, 10-1); 2, Remilan; 3, Cardinal Sinner. 5 ran. Confined: 1, Moynsha House (M Barnard, 5-4); 2, Foxbow; 3, El Bae. 4 ran. Ladies: 1, Jimmy Mac Jimmy (Miss H Barnard, 5-4 fav); 2, Smart Debutante; 3, Jerrigo. 4 ran. Open: 1, Shake Five (S Sporborg, 1-2 fav); 2, St Gregory; 3, Artrak. 4 ran. Rest: 1, Step In Line (A Sansome, 6-4); 2, Aughnacloy Rose; 3, Supreme Spirit. 4 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Rebel Tom (D Parravani, 7-1); 2, Gerar; 3, Buachaill Dana. 10 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Military Man (A Phillips, 7-4 fav); 2, Pudding; 3, Secret Music. 8 ran.

UNITED SERVICES (Larkhill): Hunt: 1, Gypsy Gerry (Maj O Ellwood, 1-5 fav); 2, Strong Account. 2 ran. Rest: 1, Noble Comic (J Tizzard, 4-1); 2, Kilone River; 3, Killyman. 8 ran. Rest (Div II): 1, Venn Boy (J Tizzard, 5-1); 2, Good Looking Guy; 3, Arctictalk. 8 ran. Mixed Open: 1, Cavalero (A Charles-Jones, 3-1); 2, Apatura King; 3, Tom Furze. 9 ran. Inter: 1, Slop'N'Time (M Miller, 1-2 fav); 2, Binney Boy; 3, The Man From Clare. 6 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Hollow Wood (fire) (R Nuttall): finished alone. Open Mdn II: 1, Primrose Girl (R Burton, 5-1); 2, Purbeck Prince; 3, Our Tommy. 8 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Boozing Gunner (S Sellars, 3-1); 2, Donald Hawkins; only 2 fin. 3 ran.

JUMPS LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	155	98	54	3	-65.89
D Nicholson	89	61	53	2	-17.43
Mrs M Reveley	63	38	39	5	+104.29
P Hobbs	54	37	39	3	-83.61
P Nicholls	53	33	28	2	+46.53

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	194	120	71	8	-41.78
R Johnson	86	96	71	0	-51.02
A Maguire	85	55	44	1	-9.79
R Dunwoody	78	62	48	7	-108.98
M A Fitzgerald	71	54	46	6	+32.65

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Warwick

Going: good

2.05 (3m 2f ch) 1, Galatasori Jane (R Johnson, 5-1); 2, Bitofamixup (2-5 fav). Only two finished. 3 ran. 14l. P Nicholls. Tote: £4.50. DF: £1.30. CSF: £6.99.

2.35 (2m hdle) 1, Line Of Conquest (B Powell, 7-1); 2, Nishamira (2-1); 3, High In The Clouds (4-5 fav). 4 ran. 4l, 7l. R Hodges. Tote: £8.10. DF: £8.00. CSF: £18.81.

3.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Run For Dante (M Brennan, 9-2); 2, Court Circular (8-1); 3, Village King (9-4 fav). 9 ran. 1l, 4l. G Hubbard. Tote: £6.00; £1.40, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £14.50. CSF: £36.09. Tricast: £91.20. Trio: £12.80.

3.40 (2m ch) 1, Lake Kariba (R Johnson, 4-1); 2, Queen Of Spades (5-4 fav); 3, Gale Toi (12-1). 7 ran. 6l, 28l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.80; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £3.70. CSF: £8.79.

4.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Samuel Wilderspin (R Johnson, 11-2); 2, Rossmore Girl (12-1); 3, Song Of The Sword (7-4). Saleel evens fav. 5 ran. 13l, dist. D Nicholson. Tote: £5.50; £2.70, £3.10. DF: £10.00. CSF: £46.46.

4.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Dublin Flyer (B Powell, 11-4); 2, Potter's Bay (5-4 fav); 3, Senor El Betrutti (2-1). 4 ran. ½l, 6l. T Forster. Tote: £3.00. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.89. NR: Trying Again.

5.10 (2m flat) 1, L'Idefix (R Johnson, 9-2); 2, Into Battle (13-2); 3, Chief Red Nose (5-2 fav). 17 ran. Hd, sh hd. T George. Tote: £7.30; £2.10, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £20.60. CSF: £33.16. Trio: £43.80.

Placepot: £1,228.70. Quadpot: £71.00.

Chepstow

1.15 1, Red Curate (25-1); 2, Strong Tel (25-1); 3, Borazon (4-1). Muskhill 9-4 fav. 11 ran.

1.45 1, Splendid Thyne (9-4 jt-fav); 2, Royale Angela (3-1); 3, Potentate (5-2). Cheerful Aspect 9-4 jt-fav. 4 ran.

2.15 1, Ottowa (11-2); 2, Dom Samourai (4-1 fav); 3, Orswell Lad (12-1). 11 ran.

2.45 1, Super Coin (11-4); 2, Ask The Butler (9-4 fav); 3, With Impunity (3-1). 7 ran.

3.15 1, Gaffax (evens fav); 2, Master Pilgrim (12-1); 3, Dines (4-1). 13 ran. NR: Go Cahoots, Golden Eagle, Snowboy.

3.45 1, Escartefigue (5-4 fav); 2, Fiddling The Facts (13-8); 3, Spring Double (9-1). 8 ran.

4.15 1, Bullens Bay (33-1); 2, Good Lord Murphy (11-8 fav); 3, Five Flags (12-1). 14 ran. NR: Campaign.

Newcastle

1.30 1, Kris Green (4-1); 2, Second Fiddle (7-1); 3, Distant Hills (100-1). What A Tale 11-8 fav. 18 ran. NR: Chain Line.

2.00 1, Forestal (evens fav); 2, Dr Bones (15-8); 3, Prince Of Saints (9-2). 5 ran.

2.30 1, Ardrina (12-1); 2, Star Rage (4-1); 3, Monica's Choice (7-2 jt-fav). Toshiba Talk 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran.

3.05 1, Domaine De Pron (9-2); 2, Stormtracker (7-1); 3, Samlee (11-4 fav). 11 ran.

3.35 1, Legal Right (3-1); 2, Ooh Ah Cantona (50-1); 3, Hazard A Guess (9-2). Wynyard Knight 9-4 fav. 19 ran.

4.05 1, Blue Charm (7-2); 2, Brighter Shade (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Political Tower (6-1). Real Tonic 9-4 jt-fav. 6 ran.

4.35 1, Vilprano (16-1); 2, Cypress Avenue (13-2); 3, Strathmore Lodge (16-1). Menshaar 2-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Kittochside Lad.

Windsor

2.25 1, Chabrol (8-1); 2, Be My Mot (5-1); 3, Polar Lord (13-2). Ivor's Flutter evens fav. 15 ran. NR: Broughton Blaze.

3.00 1, Trouvaille (7-1); 2, John Drumm (evens fav); 3, One Word (20-1). 6 ran.

3.30 1, Papua (5-2 fav); 2, Tyrolean Dream (3-1); 3, Tom Tailor (9-2). 8 ran.

4.00 1, Symbol Of Success (8-13 fav); 2, Jason's Boy (11-8). 2 ran.

4.30 1, Carlingford Gale (4-5 fav); 2, Another Course (20-1); 3, Court Master (6-1). 6 ran.

5.00 1, No Pattern (13-2); 2, Danegold (11-1); 3, Gone For A Burton (5-1). Blurred 11-4 fav. 9 ran.

Lingfield Park

1.50 1, Ripsnorter (40-1); 2, Sarum (40-1); 3, Ki Chi Saga (10-11 fav). 10 ran.

2.20 1, Sheriff (4-6 fav); 2, Colerdge (16-1); 3, Aquavita (14-1). 6 ran.

2.55 1, Without Friends (4-1 jt-fav); 2, Great Chief (11-2); 3, Rocky Waters (9-2). Invocation 4-1 jt-fav. 9 ran.

3.25 1, Krystal Max (16-1); 2, Just Loui (10-1); 3, Speedy Classic (8-1). Witchfinder 7-4 fav. 10 ran.

3.55 1, Miss Bananas (9-2); 2, Vista Alegre (13-2); 3, Tangerine Flyer (11-10 fav). 5 ran.

4.25 1, Call The Boss (7-2); 2, Severity (4-6 fav); 3, Mister Tricky (10-1). 7 ran.

4.55 1, Philistar (5-1); 2, Scotland Bay (5-1); 3, Italian Symphony (2-1 fav). 9 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, Invergordon (16-1); 2, Silken Dalliance (4-6 fav); 3, L'Estable Fleurie (8-1). 9 ran.

7.30 1, Failed To Hit (6-1); 2, Technician (9-2 fav); 3, Zorba (5-1). 13 ran.

8.00 1, Sualtach (10-1); 2, Bowcliffe (7-4 fav); 3, Denbrae (16-1). 6 ran.

8.30 1, Brynkir (8-1); 2, Drama King (5-2 fav); 3, Prospector's Cove (4-1). 9 ran.

9.00 1, Bongo (2-1 fav); 2, Loch Style (9-2); 3, My Legal Eagle (13-2). 9 ran.

9.30 1, Palacegate Jo (7-1); 2, State Approval (5-1); 3, Suga Hawk (13-8 fav). 6 ran.

FONTWELL

THUNDERER

2.00 NORDIC PRINCE (nap)
2.30 Torduff Express
3.00 Churchtown Chance
3.30 Mr Chataway
4.00 Hawaiian Youth
4.30 Shahrur

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.30 QUISTAQUAY.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.00 FEBRUARY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,553: 2m 6f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	/03-132	NORDIC PRINCE 23 (F,G) (B O'Kane) J O Shea 7-11-10	Michael Brennan (3)	92
2	00-0	ANOTHER RUMPUS 24 (Trogs) C Morlock 6-11-4	J R Kavanagh	80
3	03-0022	BOZO 38 (B Pyall) B Pyall 7-11-4	L Cummins (5)	105
4	50/PPP	LISAHANE OATS 32 (A Barrow) A Barrow 8-11-4	A Thornton	—
5	13P-F00	ROSEVALLEY 48 (F) (A & J Whiting) M Pipe 8-11-4	A P McCoy	59
6	0P	THE PROUD POUND 42 (B) (M Low) R Curtis 7-11-4	J Leech	50
7	005-36P	ZAISAN 38 (Mrs M Sweeney) J Gifford 5-11-4	P Hide	77
8	0	SHARP DEED 11F (W Rohen) M Madgwick 4-10-7	B Fenton	50
9	P	MISS MEZZANINE 33 (M Kirby) Miss L Bower 4-10-2	L Harvey	—

BETTING: 11-10 Nordic Prince, 2-1 Bozo, 6-1 Rosevalley, 10-1 Zaisan, 16-1 Another Rumpus, 25-1 others.

1997: DENHAM HILL 6-11-4 J Railton (5-6 fav) C Mann 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Nordic Prince 8l 3rd of 7 to Ginger Fox in novice hurdle grade 2 at Doncaster (2m 4f, good), previously 3¼l 3rd of 12 to Scottish Green in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Bozo 1½l 2nd of 15 to Royal Archie in novice handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft) with Zaisan (14lb worse off) pulled up. Sharp Deed 60l 14th of 20 to Tyrolean Dream in 4yo novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft) with Miss Mezzanine (levels) pulled up.

NORDIC PRINCE ran well in much better company last time

2.30 AMBERLEY NOVICES CHASE (£2,891: 3m 2f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	F111-12	TORDUFF EXPRESS 53 (G,S) (Two Plus Two) P Nicholls 7-11-9	Mr J Tizzard (5)	104
2	UP3P3R3	BENBULBIN 14 (V) (C Tilly) J Mullins 8-11-2	A Bates (5)	89
3	F-110PU	KAREN'S TYPHOON 24 (F,G) (M Holman) T McGovern 7-11-2	A P McCoy	—
4	23PFP45	KILLEANEY CARR 11 (F) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 7-11-2	P Hide	105
5	P41-43	NODDIS DILEMMA 25 (S) (P De Wilde) R Alner 8-11-2	A Thornton	93
6	1/00-P0	CANARY BLUE 5F (B,F) (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 7-10-11	E Husband (3)	—
7	/P4-F42	HOPPERDANTE 59 (S) (M Ferlanc) T George 8-10-11	R Johnson	99

BETTING: 4-5 Torduff Express, 6-1 Killeaney Carr, 7-1 Noddis Dilemma, 9-1 Benbulbin, Hopperdante, 16-1 Karen's Typhoon, 50-1 Canary Blue

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Torduff Express neck 2nd of 8 to Pennymoor Prince in novice chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, heavy), previously beat Lancastrian Jet 9l in 12-runner maiden chase at Hereford (2m 1f 110yd, good). Benbulbin 4l 3rd of 10 to Luv-U-Frank in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good). Killeaney Carr 11l 5th of 13 to Star Traveller in novice handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to firm), previously 47l 4th of 7 to Award in novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good). Noddis Dilemma 27l 3rd of 8 to Bengers Moor in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good). Canary Blue 41l 7th of 19 to Its Grand in selling handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, soft). Hopperdante beaten a distance 2nd of 12 to Freddie Muck in novice chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft), previously 4½l 4th of 11 to Wandering Light in novice handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good).

TORDUFF EXPRESS looks yet another winner for the Nicholls yard

3.00 WITTERING SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,509: 2m 3f) (18 runners)

1	221220P	MOZEMO 32 (D,F,G,S) (Cadan Trust Company Ltd) M Pipe 11-11-10	A P McCoy	90
2	/F2U25F	SHIMBA HILLS 7 (S) (Mrs K Stuart) G McCourt 10-11-8	J F Titley	99
3	1UF30PP	MINERS REST 28 (B,D,F) (Miss K George) Miss K George 10-11-3	R Massey (3)	—
4	3234-60	PACO'S BOY 14 (B,F,G,S) (R York) R York 13-10-10	Mr P York	60
5	655-343	WONDERFULL POLLY 65 (G) (J Olds) P Nicholls 10-10-10	L Cummins (5)	91
6	41-F4U4	CHURCHTOWN CHANCE 16 (G,S) (C Popham) C Popham 8-10-10	Mr O McPhail (5)	112
7	/243-5P	MOZE TIDY 32 (G,S) (D Williams) R Frost 13-10-6	J Frost	108
8	4P3P34F	DAWN CHANCE 74 (B,F,S) (Reddown Pins) H Haynes 12-10-6	Mr S Durack (5)	80
9	456-255	ROYAL CIRCUS 11F (F,G) (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 9-10-5	R Thornton	—
10	0603520	NORTHERN OPTIMIST 12 (D,F,G) B Llewellyn 10-10-3	Miss E Jones	104
11	3-0335P	RYTON RUN 59 (F,G) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 13-10-1	J Culloty	90
12	212-P35	MIRAMARE 56 (F) (M Swift) A Hobbs 8-10-0	B Fenton	83
13	0-0P3PP	WEAVER SQUARE 63 (E Baker) P Eccles 9-10-0	G Hogan (3)	—
14	-U40445	THUHOOL 14 (G,S) (C Cornwell) R Rowe 10-10-0	A Garrity (7)	99
15	5U-4P6P	ONE MORE MAN 33 (A Hisley) Miss L Bower 7-10-0	Mr R Walley (3)	90
16	PU051P-	SEBASTOPOL 310P (F) (D Page) P Murphy 9-10-0	C Maude	—
17	P644536	HIGHLAND FLAME 7 (A Blackmore) A Blackmore 9-10-0	E Husband (3)	87
18	665P400	DO BE WARE 14 (B,F,S) (R Spencer) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-10-0	P Henley (3)	—

Long handicap: Weaver Square 9-13, Thuhool 9-12, One More Man 9-10, Sebastopol 9-10, Highland Flame 9-8, Do Be Ware 9-5

BETTING: 9-2 Wonderfull Polly, 7-1 Shimba Hills, Miramare, 8-1 Mozemo, Churchtown Chance, 10-1 Dawn Chance, Thuhool, 12-1 others

1997: OPAL'S TENSPOT 10-10-5 B Fenton (10-1) J Bradley 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Wonderfull Polly 11l 3rd of 9 to Can't Say in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, good to soft) with Highland Flame (6lb worse off) 13l 4th; previously 29l 4th of 9 to Luke Warm in novice handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 5f 110yd, soft). Churchtown Chance 23l 4th of 11 to Carlingford Gale in mares novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, soft); previously novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Northern Optimist 17l 7th of 20 to Royal Then in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good), previously 15l 2nd of 6 to Lobster Cottage in amateur handicap chase at Stratford (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Miramare 26l 5th of 14 to Luke Warm in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good), previously 8l 3rd of 13 to Winnow in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). Thuhool 15l 5th of 11 to Dear Do in handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good), previously 33l 4th of 6 to Buckland Lad in handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, soft). Highland Flame beaten a distance 6th of 7 to Dontleavethenest in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, good), previously 28l 3rd of 5 to Mouse Bird in novice chase at Lingfield (2m, good to soft).

DAWN CHANCE has the form to win this if at his best

3.30 BRITISH EQUESTRIAN INSURANCE BROKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,080: 2m 6f 110yd) (5 runners)

1	12-2110	KING OF SPARTA 14F (F,G) (D Mercer) O Sherwood 5-11-10	J A McCarthy	117
2	32U-224	MR CHATAWAY 42 (Mrs E Boucher) D Grissell 7-11-3	J R Kavanagh	121
3	1243132	QUISTAQUAY 12 (CD,G) (D Bare) J Mullins 6-11-0	N Williamson	125
4	-134132	FLAXLEY WOOD 10 (CD,G,S) (Mrs D Le Trobe) R Buckler 7-10-13	B Powell	121
5	P/400-R	URON V 12 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Bousquet-Payne) Mrs M Jones 12-10-11	C Llewellyn	—

BETTING: 9-4 Quistaquay, 5-2 Flaxley Wood, 3-1 King Of Sparta, 7-2 Mr Chataway, 20-1 Uron V

1997: PADDYSWAY 10-10-6 D Bridgwater (9-2) R Buckler 9 ran

FORM FOCUS King Of Sparta 66l last of 9 to Flying Fiddler in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 5f, good); previously beat Canton Venture ¾l in 2-runner handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good). Mr Chataway 6½l 4th of 13 to Take My Side in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy); previously 4l 2nd of 15 to Unsinkable Boxer in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Quistaquay ¾l 2nd of 10 to Spring Grass in mares handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good); previously 2¾l 3rd of 18 to Green Crusader in handicap hurdle at Windsor (3m 4f, good to soft). Flaxley Wood 6l 2nd of 9 to Eau de Cologne in handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good), previously beaten a distance 3rd of 8 to Quistaquay (12lb worse off) in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Uron V ran out in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good), previously 59l 17th of 24 to Pharanear in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good to firm).

KING OF SPARTA, a good Plumpton winner, was unsuited by sticky ground last time

4.00 JOHN ROGERSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,655: 3m 2f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	P-P1466	EQUITY PLAYER 28 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs S Pins) R Curtis 13-11-10	C Llewellyn	107
2	46PU22	HAWAIIAN YOUTH 25 (F,G,S) (D Czarnetzki) G McCourt 10-11-3	W Marston	136
3	422243	MAMMY'S CHOICE 28 (S) (D Young) R Alner 8-10-11	A Thornton	119
4	121-3P6	CREDON 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Fusilier Racing) S Woodman 10-10-9	B Fenton	120
5	3P/P-PP	SAFFAAH 7 (G,S) (Mrs W Murphy) S Knight 11-10-6	M Richards	—
6	43355-6	MASTER COMEDY 105 (B,CD,F,S) (J Wilkinson) Miss L Bower 14-10-0	N Williamson	107

Long handicap: Master Comedy 8-9

BETTING: 7-4 Hawaiian Youth, 9-4 Mammy's Choice, 7-2 Credon, 9-2 Equity Player, 25-1 Master Comedy, 50-1 Saffaah

1997: FLAKED OATS 8-11-8 D Bridgwater (Evens fav) P Nicholls 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Hawaiian Youth 20l 2nd of 7 to Aller Moor in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good), previously 5l 2nd of 8 to Rectory Garden in handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good to soft). Mammy's Choice 4¾l 3rd of 10 to Lay It Off in handicap chase at Windsor (3m 4f 110yd, good) with Equity Player (1lb better off) 55l 6th. Credon beaten a distance 6th of 8 to Malwood Castle in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft), previously handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to soft). Saffaah pulled up in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good); previously handicap chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). Master Comedy beaten a distance last of 6 to Flaked Oats in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft); previously 37l 5th of 8 to Red Branch in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm).

Hawaiian Youth is well handicapped by MAMMY'S CHOICE is more reliable

4.30 NATIONAL SPIRIT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,985: 2m 2f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	F60-114	SERENUS 30 (BF,CD,S) (E Robins) N Henderson 5-12-0	T Hagger (7)	138
2	2PF-3P4	GAROLO 10 (D,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 8-11-13	G Bradley	130
3	F-41131	SHAHRUR 30 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Kernan) G L Moore 5-11-8	J R Kavanagh	139
4	23-16P0	MARIUS 30 (S) (Miss J Andrews) J Gifford 8-11-6	P Hide	130
5	226-100	NINE O THREE 16 (F,G,S) (Bideford Tool Ltd) A Hobbs 9-11-1	A Thornton	112
6	1123-50	DARAKSHAN 33 (F,G,S) (M Watt) Miss H Knight 6-10-10	A Maguire	118
7	1201/05	VOLUNTEER 11 (F,S) (M Marchant) R O Sullivan 6-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	124

BETTING: 7-4 Shahrur, 2-1 Serenus, 7-1 Darakshan, 8-1 Garolo, 12-1 Marius, Volunteer, 14-1 Nine O Three

1997: GROUSEMAN 11-11-7 J Culloty (7-2) Miss H Knight 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Garolo 20l 4th of 6 to Mulligan in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good), previously hurdle grade 2 at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft). Shahrur beat Alabang 4l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with Serenus (8lb better off) 9l 4th. Marius 46l 9th of 13 to Three Farthings in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft); previously novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Volunteer 8¼l 5th of 7 to Khalidi in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good), previously 30l 9th of 14 to Dines in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good).

Shahrur and Serenus are closely handicapped and VOLUNTEER could be the value

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Nicholls	14	37	37.8	G Bradley	7	28	25.0
G McCourt	3	8	37.5	T J Murphy	9	36	25.0
M Pipe	18	73	24.7	A P McCoy	26	111	23.4
R Buckler	17	69	24.6	P Hide	20	94	21.3
R Alner	12	52	23.1	C Maude	7	33	21.2
J Gifford	21	118	17.8	A Maguire	16	87	18.4

SPECIALISTS

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Lord Huntingdon, 16 winners from 67 runners, 23.9%; M Johnston, 46 from 218, 21.1%; P Haslam, 19 from 109, 17.4%; M Ryan, 22 from 132, 16.7%; Mrs A Swinbank, 8 from 49, 16.3%; K Burke, 13 from 82, 15.9%. Jockeys: N Day, 8 winners from 27 rides, 29.6%; D Holland, 27 from 131, 20.6%; P Roberts, 10 from 66, 15.2%; K Fallon, 16 from 106, 15.1%; Darren Moffatt, 4 from 27, 14.8%; F Lynch, 22 from 173, 12.7%; C Lowther, 8 from 64, 12.5%.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No 006482 of 1997 CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF HOLLAS GROUP public limited company and IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 4th February, 1998 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company from £19,412,000 to £4,033,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9th February 1998.

Dated this 23rd day of February 1998

Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ. Solicitors for the Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No 006483 of 1997 CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF TEXTILION LIMITED and IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 4th February, 1998 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company in the sum of £4,115,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 10th February 1998.

Dated this 23rd day of February 1998

Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ. Solicitors for the Company

CHARITY COMMISSION Charity: Barnardo's Harlinge Centre. Scheme for the alteration of the Charity's trust deed. Reference: FC-216250 / 76492-CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference.

THE FRIENDS OF THE GIRLS' PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL TRUST

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at 100 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JP at 3.30pm on Thursday, 19th March, 1998 for the purpose of ratifying the company's proposed change of name to "The Friends of the Girls' Day School Trust". Further information from the Assistant Secretary at that address.

LEGAL NOTICES

Graphic Output Technology Limited. Registered Number: 2974654. Trading name: Go-Tech. Nature of business: Paper, Printing and Publishing. Trade classification: 10. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 12 February 1998. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Euro Sales Finance plc. D H Gilbert and R Hocking, Joint Administrative Receivers, office holder no(s) 2376 and 2322. Address: KDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986 RULE 4.182(A) John Davey Meats Limited In Members' Voluntary Liquidation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that We, Mr Raymond Hocking and Mr Anthony Peter Supperstone, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, of Messrs KDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company on 13 February 1998. The Joint Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details in writing of any claim against the company to the Joint Liquidators at the above address by 14 March 1998. The Joint Liquidators also give notice under the provision of Rule 4.182(A)(6) that they intend to make a distribution to creditors who have submitted claims by 14 March 1998 otherwise a distribution will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated: 16 February 1998

R Hocking, Joint Liquidator

Note: This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

The Insolvency Act 1986 KORE DATA (UK) LIMITED (In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Popplecon & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the Members and Creditors on 18th February 1998.

M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

E G HORTON JOINERY LIMITED IN RECEIVERSHIP

Registered Number: 2982190. Former Company Name: Foxny 728 Limited. Trading Name: Horton Joinery. Nature of Business: Manufacturer of Joinery Products. Trade Classification: 09. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 12th February 1998. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Joint Administrative Receivers P S Dean and M P Riley (Office Holder Numbers 2368 and 5775) of Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF.

The Insolvency Act 1986 UNITED MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 2nd March 1998 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 11.30am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that R W Sheppard, FIPA, of Popplecon & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 12th day of February 1998

By Order of the Board

I G H Leggett, Director

TRINICREST LIMITED (Registered in England No: 2267785) Proposed Payment out of Capital pursuant to Companies Act 1985 Section 171

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:-

1. Trinicrest Limited (the "Company") has by a Special Resolution passed by written resolution of all the relevant members of the Company dated 19 February 1998 approved a payment out of capital for the purposes of acquiring by redemption 100,000 of the 11.5% Participating Preference Shares of £1 each and 250,000 of the 6% Second Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each in its own share capital.

2. The permissible capital payment (as defined in Section 171 of the said Act) for such shares is £350,000.

3. The Statutory Declaration of the Company's Directors and the report of the Company's Auditors required by Section 174 of the said Act in respect of such payment out of capital are available for inspection by any member or creditor of the Company at the Company's registered office at 73 Sheffield Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S60 1DA during business hours on any day (except a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday) up to and including 26 March 1998.

4. Any creditor of the Company may at any time up to and including 26 March 1998 apply to the Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an Order prohibiting such payment out of capital or for other relief.

DATED this 19th day of February 1998

T A Clevering, Secretary

The man who was Diana's butler will run the London marathon in her honour. **John Goodbody** reports

Pounding out the miles in memory of a Princess

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

CHRIS HARRIS

In the gardens of Kensington Palace: Paul and the Princess had a long-lasting relationship based on mutual trust

Millions of people felt a sense of loss at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. But few experienced such profound distress as her butler, Paul Burrell.

Described by the Princess as "my rock", Burrell flew to Paris on the morning of the crash. He kept a vigil beside her body until the Prince of Wales arrived and then wept as he told the world "we have lost the captain of our ship".

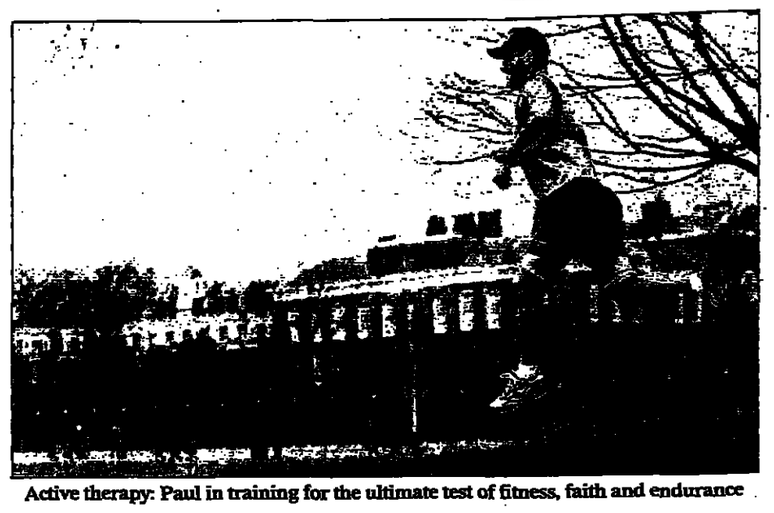
Since that day, 39-year-old Burrell has been continuing his duty to the memory of the Princess. This will include running the Flora London Marathon on April 26 and co-ordinating the fundraising for the memorial fund. "It is," he said, "my personal tribute to a *unique and truly inspirational* woman."

Burrell, with 24 other members of the *Times* squad, has a place in the 750-strong Team Flora, which will be raising money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. They are now all hard in training, or certainly ought to be, for the event. Poignantly, the course will take them along some of the streets down which the coffin of the Princess passed last September.

Of all the runners, none will have known the Princess so closely for so long as Burrell. She was a person with whom he established a deep bond. "It was a friendship rather than just a working relationship," he said.

The Princess once described Burrell as "the only man that I can trust", and he was the only member of the Royal Household to accompany her to Angola and Bosnia. He was also the only "outsider" present when she was buried on the Spencer estate at Althorp, Northamptonshire.

His service for the Princess was the culmination of 21 years working for the Royal Household. The son of a lorry driver, he was brought up in Grassmoor, near Chesterfield in Derbyshire. At the age of 12, he watched the Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and said "I want to work here one day". It was an ambition that was quickly fulfilled.



Active therapy: Paul in training for the ultimate test of fitness, faith and endurance

After leaving school at 16, he completed a hotel and catering management course and then worked briefly at a hotel in Torquay before joining the Royal Household, where he rose to become one of the Queen's two personal footmen. He married Maria, the Duke of Edinburgh's maid, and they now have two boys — 12-year-old Alex and nine-year-old Nick.

He began working for the Prince and Princess of Wales ten years ago at Highgrove. When the marriage broke up, the Princess particularly asked to retain him.

"I was beginning to blossom in a different direction in the last two years of her life," he said. "I had no uniform. She bought everything for me — suits, Hermès ties — and encouraged me to develop in new ways. I come from such a humble background. I have been privileged."

Although not particularly gifted at sport as a youngster, he has always been quite fit, running in the grounds of Highgrove, playing squash and exercising regularly in the gym. But all such familiar routines ended at 1pm on August 31, when a policeman knocked on his door to tell him of the crash. He went straight to the Princess's office and received news of her death from Balmoral, where the Queen was staying.

"I was numb that week. Everything seemed surreal," he said. "Together with my family, the Princess had been the total focus of my life. I knew that nothing would ever be the same again.

"It was a privilege to watch her at work. She was genuinely classless and there are not many people about whom you could say that. Very few people knew her."

Having turned down several lucrative offers to work for Hollywood film stars, including Tom Cruise and Mel Gibson, Burrell is now a member of the Government's Memorial Committee, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown.

After the Princess's death, he at first felt too drained to contemplate taking any exercise. But the thought of raising money for the fund inspired him to train for the marathon.

"People do not realise how much preparation goes into running a marathon," he said. "When you are watching on television, you don't realise the discipline required." Several times a week, he gets up at 6am and runs around the perimeter of Hyde Park. Every weekend he does a steady long run; the longest so far has been 11 miles. He has been adding half a mile a week, and hopes to be running 20 miles before marathon day dawns.

"The most difficult thing is that running is a solitary pursuit," he said. "You are out there alone in the dark and the cold. But it is also a time when I can gather my thoughts.

"I tried to protect the Princess during her lifetime and now I am trying to protect her memory."

● *If you would like to sponsor Paul Burrell's marathon, please write to him at Kensington Palace, London W8 4PU.*

A time to run, a time for fun

Marathon Man John hits the road in search of his personal record

The London Marathon, the focus of the jogging boom of the 1980s, transformed the lives of many people. But few have found the mythical distance more entrancing and rewarding than John McDonald (John Goodbody writes).

He completed his first in 1981, the year of the initial London Marathon, and now has run 120, once finishing four in eight days.

McDonald's experience and dedication have made him a natural for *The Times* squad of 20, who are part of Team Flora raising money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

So, as he has done for the past 16 years, he is now preparing for another year of marathons. McDonald, a management consultant from Worsley, Manchester, had originally planned to enter only one marathon. "I started running in 1979 to help improve my squash. It was a time when it was deeply unfashionable."

That first marathon for McDonald, now 54, was in Bolton. On a hot and humid August day, he finished in 4hr 20min. He suffered. "I did not have the experience to know to slow down when I was about to get into trouble," he said.

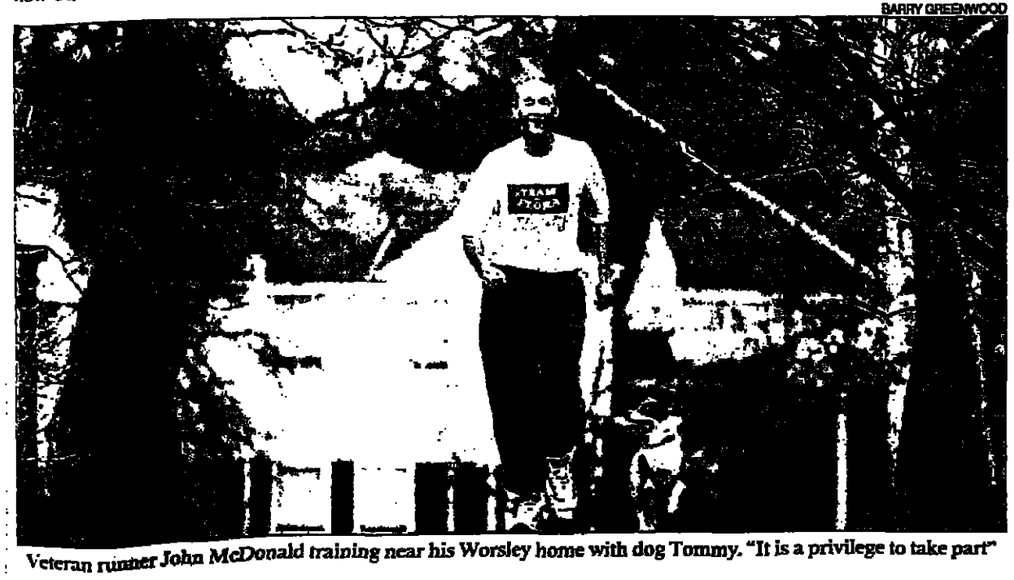
The experience was so unforgettable that he decided to do it again. Two months later, he ran 3hr 40min in Manchester and the following year, 3hr 17min. His best time came in 1983, when he ran London in 3hr 9min. Since then he has been uncannily consistent. Between October 6 and November 3, 1991, he ran eight marathons, all between 3hr 23min and 3hr 29min. Does he regret never finishing under three hours? "Well, I was also having other shorter races for my club, Salford Metropolitan. I enjoyed those and would not have wanted to give them up to concentrate on just one marathon. I certainly would not swap my 120 marathons for one sub-three-hour time."

His busiest period followed the death of his wife, Mary, from cancer in 1991. "The running filled a void in my life. It got me back into the swing of things."

His ambition is to go under 3hr 30min when he becomes a "super-vet" on his 55th birthday on August 1 this year. For the Flora London Marathon on April 26, he will "be doing my best on the day. It has become an institution and will be a privilege to take part".

He is currently averaging 50 miles a week and will build this up to 55 to 60 miles in March before the customary taper in April. His advice to all prospective competitors is simple: "You have got to do the mileage. If you lack stamina, you will be exposed on the day. But do not push the volume of mileage too suddenly. Take it steady. Hold yourself back early on and you will be there at the finish."

BARRY GREENWOOD



Veteran runner John McDonald training near his Worsley home with dog Tommy. "It is a privilege to take part"

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Those declarers who were in Five Clubs on this hand assumed that they needed to find a defender with a doubleton heart honour to have any chance. But if that was the case, it meant there was a better line of play than just playing ace and another heart. The deal is from the 1997 Premier League.

Dealer South **Game all** **IMPs**

	♠96 ♥A954 ♦63 ♣AJ1092	
♠1075 ♥Q8 ♦KQ10875 ♣43	N W E S	♠J832 ♥KJ103 ♦AJ42 ♣5
	♠AKQ4 ♥762 ♦9 ♣KQ876	

S	W	N	E
1 C	2 D (weak)	3 C	4 D
4 S	Pass	5 C	All Pass

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: king of diamonds

I was North, playing with Brian Senior. His Four Spade bid was offering that contract as a place to play (old-fashioned, I know).

The defence started with two rounds of diamonds. Senior ruffed the second and drew trumps in two rounds, West discarding a diamond. One way to avoid losing two heart tricks on this type of hand is to eliminate the spades and then play ace and another heart. If the defender who wins the second heart has no more hearts he will have to concede a ruff and discard.

But, in general, the defence can thwart this plan — a player with K x should unblock the king under the ace of hearts, and a player with K J x x should go in with the king on the second round to drop his partner's queen. Senior saw more deeply into the position. It looked as though West had six diamonds for his weak jump overcall, and he had turned up with two clubs; if he had honour doubleton in hearts he could only have three spades. That meant East would be guarding both the spades and the hearts, and could be subjected to a squeeze.

So after drawing trumps Senior ducked a heart, then won the heart return and played off the rest of dummy's trumps, discarding a heart from his hand. That reduced everyone to four cards, and so East was unable to keep four spades and a winning heart.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Title prospects

With the Linares tournament under way, the debate between leading players as to how the world championship will be resolved is hotting up. Garry Kasparov is the favourite in Linares and the two main contenders for his crown, Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik, are also competing. When asked whether Anatoly Karpov (who defeated Anand in Lausanne in the Fide championship) was a good world champion, Anand responded: "I don't think he is world champion at all".

Referring to Kasparov, and his delay in organising a title defence, Anand added: "There are two components to a world champion. One, he must be the strongest player and secondly, he must lend a certain legitimacy to his title by defending it every so often."

Kramnik said: "Kasparov must be worried about his position. He knows that he has to react. There has been a lot of criticism about the Fide format of a knockout championship but still Ilumzinov [the President of Fide] managed to organise this."

Kasparov himself made a welcome announcement, by saying: "I am 100 per cent sure that I will play the world championship."

Today's game shows Kasparov defeating one of his rivals from this year's Linares line-up.

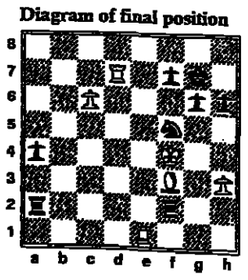
White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1997

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	c4	e6
2	Nc3	d5
3	d4	Be7
4	cxd5	exd5
5	Bf4	Nf6
6	e3	Bf5
7	Qb3	Nc6
8	g4	Nxg4
9	Nxd5	0-0
10	Bg2	Bh4
11	Bg3	Be6
12	Kf1	a5
13	Nh3	a4
14	Qc4	Na5
15	Qc5	b6
16	Bxh4	bxc5
17	Bxd8	Raxd8
18	Ne7+	Kh8
19	d5	Bd7
20	Rc1	c4
21	Ng5	h6
22	Nf3	Rb8
23	h3	Nf6
24	Nd4	Rxb2
25	Bf3	Rxa2
26	Kg2	Re8
27	Nec6	Bxc6
28	Nxc6	Nxc6
29	dxc6	Rxa3
30	Rxc4	Rb3
31	Rd4	Rbb2
32	Rf1	Rd2
33	Rb4	Kh7
34	Rb7	Ne8
35	Kg3	g6
36	Re1	Nd6
37	Rxc7	Kg7
38	Rd7	Nf5+
39	Kf4	Rxd2

White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD POWER

By Philip Howard

BINGHI
a. A dog-cart
b. An Aboriginal
c. Unleavened bread

ETOURDI
a. Stuffed
b. Thoughtless
c. Deaf

DAGGETT
a. A tar
b. A gloss mark
c. A sheep's bottom

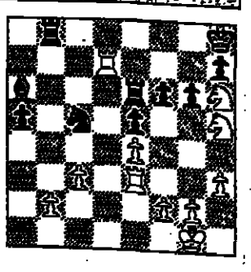
FOURREAU
a. A curved dagger
b. A biscuit
c. A tight-fitting dress

Answers on page 43

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Yurtaev — Socko, St Petersburg 1997. Despite his active position, White seems to be in trouble as his knight and rook are both attacked. How did he dispel this thought with an energetic continuation?



Solution on page 43

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FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

SANDEFJORD, Norway: Thomas Cup: Third place play-off: Sweden bt England 3-2 (Sweden names first: R Magnusson lost to D Hall 9-15, 15-9, 6-15; H Bengtsson bt C Haughton 15-12, 15-6; T Johansson lost to P Bush 5-15, 15-9, 7-15; P Axelsson and H Andersson bt S Archer and C Hunt 15-3, 15-13; P-G Jonsson and J Olsson bt J Robertson and I Pearson 15-8, 15-7). Final: Denmark bt Holland 5-0 (P-E Hoyer-Larsen bt J van Dijk 15-8, 15-10; K Jonassen bt D Pelyama 15-8, 15-12; M Lungaard-Hansen bt G Bruijsten 15-12, 15-7; M Sogaard and J Holst-Christensen bt D Lens and D van Dam 15-8, 15-4; J Eriksen and J Larsen bt N van Barneveld and J van Leeuwen 15-8, 15-4). Uber Cup: Third place play-off: Holland bt Sweden 3-2 (Holland names first: J Mardenstijn bt M Borg 11-2, 11-7; B Beenhakker lost to K Ericsson 12-9, 5-11, 10-12; L Janssen lost to C Bengtsson 11-8, 8-11, 4-11; E van den Heuvel and M Hoogland bt J Holgersson and J Karlsson 15-6, 8-15, 15-12; N van Hooren and L Jonathans bt C Bengtsson and K Evernas 15-10, 15-12. Final: Denmark bt England 5-0 (Denmark names first: C Martin bt J Mann 11-2, 11-7; M Pedersen bt R Parisley 11-7, 12-10; M Sorensen bt S Hardaker 11-1, 12-10; M Vange and A Jorgensen bt N Beck and J Davies 12-15, 15-9, 15-2; M Thomsen and R Olsen bt J Goode and D Kellogg 15-6, 15-7).

BOWLS

YETTON TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Thoresby bt Nottingham 84-67 (Thoresby skips first: N Shaw 28, M Lomas 14; M Welch 22, B Atherton 18; B Alderson 19, G Holton 19; J Foredick 15, N Beesley 18); Tye Green bt Diss 84-74 (Tye Green skips first: B Fuller 25, C Pollington 14; J Wyatt 17, P Barnes-Wood 21; S Bloomfield 25, M Reeder 20; J Granger 17, L Milbank 19); Bentham bt Egham 90-71 (Bentham skips first: M Stafley 21, M Steele 15; M Pye 24, A Green 17; G Smith 18, K Strutt 12; M Reeve 27, D Hanlon 27; Torbay bt Atherley 84-79 (Torbay skips first: R Capp 20, P Sutton 15; B Day 25, J McAusland 24; J Rimmer 11, W Line 29; W Barnard 26, F Guy 11).

PAISLEY: CIS Scottish league: Premier division: Final: Auchinleck bt Lanarkshire 86-76.

BOXING

BELFAST: British light-welterweight championship: M Winters (Ulster, holder) bt B Paul (Tottenham) pts. Heavyweight (8rnds): D Williams (Brixton) bt S Woollas (Doncaster) rsc 2nd. Cruiserweight (10rnds): D Corbett (Belfast) bt D Wallyn (Bel) pts. Super-middleweight (8rnds): P Collins (Dublin) drew with P Epton (Doncaster). Middleweight (8rnds): D Ryan (Donegal) bt K Adamson (London) pts. Light-middleweight (8rnds): N Sinclair (Belfast) bt L Wicks (Brighton) rsc 1. Light-welterweight (4rnds): M Reneghan (Armagh) bt K Konstatinos (Potters Bar) pts.

PARIS: World Boxing Association junior-welterweight championship: K Rahilou (Fr, holder) bt J-B Mendy (Fr) pts. European junior-lightweight championship: A Alexandrov (Russ) bt D Lila (Fr, holder) pts.

MAR DEL PLATA, Buenos Aires: Vacant World Boxing Council cruiserweight championship: J C Gomez (Ger) bt M Dominguez (Arg) pts. World Boxing Association bantamweight championship: N Y Konadu (Ghana, holder) bt H Torres (Ven) ko 2nd.

INDIO, California: Vacant World Boxing Union junior-featherweight championship: C Navarro (US) bt N Benitz (Mex) pts.

MIAMI: Vacant World Boxing Association North American cruiserweight championship: S Montana (Dom Rep) bt U Grant (US) rtd 12th. Heavyweight (10rnds): R Mercer (US) bt L Loiscono (US) ko 2nd.

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: The Gunther Sachs Challenge Cup: 1, Lord Wrottesley (GB) 1min 43.58sec; 2, L L Marenzi (US) 1:44.08; 3, D von Ribbentrop (Ger) 1:44.21; 4, M Mertens (Ger) 1:44.32; 5, C Tesdorf (Ger) 1:44.81; 6, G Pitsch (Switz) 1:45.28. The Cartier Challenge Trophy: 1, Wrottesley 4min 38.02sec; 2, Von Ribbentrop 4:40.55; 3, Mertens 4:41.71; 4, Marenzi 4:42.17; 5, Badrutt 4:43.80; 6, Pitsch 4:44.25

CRICKET

First Test match

New Zealand v Zimbabwe

WELLINGTON (fourth day of five): New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by ten wickets

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 180 (S B O'Connor 4 for 52).

Second Innings

G J Rennie lbw b Doull	15
G Flower c and b Vettori	4
A R Whittall run out	12
M W Goodwin c Fleming b Cairns	72
G J Whittall c Astle b Nash	22
†A Flower c O'Connor b Vettori	8
*A D R Campbell c Horne b Cairns	56
P A Strang b Cairns	0
H H Streak not out	43
A G Huckle lbw Vettori	0
M Mbangwa lbw Cairns	0
Extras (b8, 1b 14)	20
Total	250

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-20, 3-65, 4-110, 5-125, 6-155, 7-155, 8-249, 9-250.

BOWLING: Cairns 24.3-4-58-4; O'Connor 14-3-39-0; Doull 13-1-47-1; Vettori 41-18-73-3; Nash 9-6-10-1; McMillan 5-1-5-0.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young c Strang b Streak	0
M J Horne c A Flower b Mbangwa	44
†A C Parore c A Flower b Huckle	78
*S P Fleming c Campbell b Huckle	36
N J Astle c A Flower b Streak	42
C D McMillan c A Whittall b Huckle	139
C L Cairns run out	0
D J Nash b Strang	41
D L Vettori b Strang	16
S B Doull c Goodwin b Strang	8
S B O'Connor not out	2
Extras (lb 4, b 1)	5
Total	411

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-103, 3-144, 4-179, 5-240, 6-254, 7-382, 8-388, 9-397

BOWLING: Streak 22-6-74-2; Mbangwa 17-4-42-1; Strang 40.1-13-126-3; G Whittall 5-2-12-0; A Whittall 12-0-50-0; Huckle 40-10-102-3.

Second Innings

M J Horne not out	9
B A Young not out	10
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	20

BOWLING: Streak 2-0-13-0; Huckle 1.5-0-6-0.

Man of the match: C D McMillan.

Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and S G Randell (Australia)

TOUR MATCH: *Bloemfontein (second day of three)*: Free State 334-7 (W J Cronje 150 not out); Pakistanis 315-6 (Inzamam-ul-Haq 110 not out, Yousuf Youhanna 54).

SUPERSPORT SERIES (third day of four): *Centurion:* Eastern Province 189 (D J Callaghan 58; P S de Villiers 4-63, G J Smith 4-48) and 315-9 (M W Rushmere 124, L J Koen 104 not out); Northern Titans 233 (D J de Vos 60; Paarl: Boland 177 and 253 (S J Palframan 71, N C Johnson 4-64), Natal 190 and 101-2 (M L Bruyns 58 not out).

CYCLING

TIME TRIALS: North Road CC Hardriders' (Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, 25 miles): 1, M Belfield (GS Strada) 1hr 0min 20sec; 2, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 1:00.29; 3, S Dangerfield (Wheelbase) 1:00.48. Team: Team Clean 3:17.00. Corsham RC (Devizes, two-up 20 miles): 1, P Standen (MCS RT) and A Cook (Chippenham and District Wheelers) 45:30; 2, D Russell and G Fouracre (Mendip CC) 48:37; 3, R Olver and M Cole (University of Bath) 47:17. Tavistock Wheelers (hilly, 18.5 miles): 1, D Moore (Mid-Devon CC) 53:11; 2, A Parker (Mid-Devon CC) 53:47; 3, C Halls (Mid-Devon CC) 54:31. Fullarton Wheelers (Irvine, Strathclyde, team 17 miles): 1, Paisley RT (P Rennie, J Millar, S McWilliam) 36:44; 2, Glasgow Couriers 38:40; 3, Inverclyde Velo 39:12. Redhill CC Sporting (Dorking, 16.4 miles): 1, R Hallett (Sydenham Wheelers) 39:55; 2, J Bradden (CC Wolong) 40:08; 3, P Perry (Tooting BC) 40:14. Team: Sydenham Wheelers 2:02.51. Circuit of Kirby Hill (North Yorkshire, 12.5 miles): 1, G Weil (Team Velocity) 26:56; 2, I Cooke (JE James RT) 27:04; 3, A Hardy (Leo RC) 27:32. Team: Army TTT 1:24.09. Yorkshire CF (Tadcaster, 10 miles): 1, I Cooke (JE James RT) 21:14; 2, N Giles (CC Lancashire) 21:30; 3, H Walker (Team Guru) 21:35. Team: Team Guru 1:05.34. Andover Wheelers (hilly, 10 miles): 1, D Axford (Team 120/80) 25:55, 2, S Howes (West Drayton MBC) 26:10; 3, G Longland (Radford Accountants) 27:09

ROAD RACES: Fareham Wheelers (Wheely Down, 58 miles): 1, D Axford (Team 120/80) 2:28.56; 2, P Rogers (VC St Raphael) at 13sec; 3, S Howes (West Drayton MBC) at 21. Stairmaster Cup winter series (Hillingdon, West London, 53 kilometres): 1, S Hayes (Twickenham CC) 1:11.45, 2, L Garner (Twickenham CC) at 1:18; 3, S Barns (Feltham RC) same time. *Springtime Pursuit (Starcross, Devon, 36 miles)*: 1, Y Barker (Mid-Devon CC) 1:28.55, 2, S Lewis (Penzance Wheelers) at 5sec; 3, J Taylor (Harrow CC) same time

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION: Barford Tigers 2 Reading 4; Beeston 3 Old Loughtonians 1, Canterbury 3 Southgate 2; East Grinstead 2 Doncaster 2; Guildford 1 Teddington 2; Hounslow 1 Cannock 6.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	18	14	2	2	73	32	44
Canterbury	18	13	2	3	83	44	41
Reading	18	11	2	5	63	43	35
Southgate	18	11	2	5	58	42	35
O Loughtonians	18	8	5	5	55	44	29
Teddington	18	8	3	7	53	56	27
East Grinstead	18	7	3	8	44	50	24
Hounslow	18	4	5	9	34	51	17
Guildford	18	5	1	12	39	55	16
Barford Tigers	18	3	5	10	34	64	14
Beeston	18	4	2	12	33	65	14
Doncaster	18	2	4	12	42	65	10

FIRST DIVISION: Bromley 1 Bournville 6 Brooklands 2 Chelmsford 0; Hampstead 3 Gloucester City 0, Harleston Magpies 3 Loughborough Students 3; Lewes 4 Firebrands 0, Oxford Hawks 2 Isca 2, Oxford University 2 Bluehats 0; Stourport 4 Hull 2. Surbiton 3 Indian Gymkhana 2; Warrington 2 Sheffield 3. Postponed: Havant v St Albans.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brooklands	17	14	1	2	45	22	43
Bournville	17	13	3	1	59	22	42
Surbiton	17	12	2	3	51	23	38
Havant	16	10	5	1	54	24	35
Indian Gym	17	9	3	5	47	36	30
Chelmsford	17	9	2	6	56	40	29
Hampstead	16	9	1	6	39	21	28
Bromley	17	8	4	5	39	40	28
Stourport	17	8	2	7	40	40	26
Lewes	17	7	5	5	48	51	26
Oxford Univ	17	6	3	8	33	34	21
Harleston M	17	6	3	8	32	33	21
Sheffield	17	6	3	8	40	45	21
Lough Stu	17	5	5	7	32	33	20
Hull	17	5	4	8	35	42	19
Isca	17	5	4	8	34	44	19
Firebrands	17	4	6	7	27	51	18
Bluehats	17	4	3	10	30	46	15
Oxford Hawks	17	4	2	11	34	51	14
Gloucester City	17	4	2	11	24	44	14
Warrington	17	2	2	13	31	64	8
St Albans	15	1	3	11	27	51	6

EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Hamburg: Division A: Group A: Slavia Prague 3 Pocztowiec (Pol) 6, Harvestehuder (Ger) 13 St Albans 1, Pocztowiec 13 St Albans 1 Harvestehuder 12 Slavia 4. Group B. Durkheimer (Ger) 15 Orient Lyngby (Den) 2, WAC Vienna 6 Lille 10, Durkheimer 16 WAC 5 Orient 5 Lille 10. Dundee: Division B: Semi-finals: Athletic Terrasse 16 Stockholm 7; Stade Lausanne 8 Menzies Hill 4.

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bournemouth 3 Fareham 2; Chichester 3 Eastcote 4; City of Portsmouth 3 Brockenhurst 2; High Wycombe 0 Old Whitgiftians 1, Ramgarhia 2 Anchorians 0; Trojans 0 Gore Court 0; Tunbridge Wells 0 Herne Bay 2, Wimbledon 4 Purley 1; Winchester 2 Richmond 0, Woking 6 Maidenhead 5. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover 6 Portsmouth 0; Basingstoke 3 Old Wellcountians 1; Blandford 2 Dulwich 1; Haslemere 1; Camberley 1, London University 4 Cobes 2 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 3 Barnes 3; Old Cranleighans 10 Goan 0; Old Georgians 3 Spencer 1; Oxshott 2 Epsom 1. Kent/Sussex: Ashford 2 Old Williamsonians 1, BBHC 1 Horsham 2, Bexley Invicta 1 Mid Sussex 5; Blackheath 5 Sevenoaks 0; Brighton 5 Eastbourne 0; Burnt Ash 3 Tulse Hill 3, Folkestone 1 Old Holcombeans 7. Middleton-Bognor 0 Old Bordenians 2; Newhaven 0 Marden Russets 9, Worthing 4 Lloyds Bank 4. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Hayes 2 Staines 2; Hendon 0 Bracknell 3, Lions 7 Rickings Park 2; Marlow 0 Ashford 4, Milton Keynes 1 Sunbury 1; PHC Chiswick 3 Farnham Common 1, Phoenix 2 Newbury 6; West Hampstead 3 Amersham 1; Wokingham 4 City of Oxford 1. Postponed: Gerrards Cross v Old Kingstonians.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester 5 Durham University 0; Formby 3 Southport 1, Harrogate 1 Neston 2, Norton 6 Ben Rhydding 4; Sheffield Bankers 2 Wigan 2; Timperley 5 Swallows 2.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield 2 Harborne 10; Edgbaston 5 Northampton Saints 1, Khalsa 5 Bloxwich 2, North Stafford 1 Coventry and North Warwickshire 1; Nottingham 2 North Notts 2; Olton and West Warwickshire 3 Hampton-in-Arden 5.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Clacton 0 Bishop's Stortford 1, Colchester 7 Cambridge University 2; Ipswich 1 Cambridge City 2; Luton Town 3 Sudbury 8, Peterborough Town 6 Crostwick 3. Premier division B: Ipswich and E Suffolk 2 Bury St Edmunds 5, Norwich City 3 Dereham 2; Redbridge and Ilford 4 St Ives 2, Romford 4 Old Southendian 3; West Herts 4 Bedford 2.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Bucs 3 Whitchurch 5, Clevedon 0 Cheltenham 7

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Sutton Coldfield 2 Hightown 1; Ipswich 2 Olton Terraquest 1; Slough 7 Doncaster 0; Trojans 0 Clifton Scottish Life 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	11	11	0	0	63	17	33
Ipswich	11	7	1	3	27	17	22
Clifton	11	7	1	3	24	18	22
Olton	11	5	2	4	19	21	17
Hightown	11	3	2	6	14	22	11
Sutton	11	3	1	7	18	31	10
Doncaster	11	1	3	7	15	35	6
Trojans	11	1	2	8	14	33	5

FIRST DIVISION: Bracknell 0 Loughborough Students 5, Chelmsford Highway 4 Bradford Swithenbank 3, Canterbury 2 Sunderland Bedans 1; Leicester 4 Wimbledon 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	11	9	1	1	28	10	28
Lough Stu	11	8	0	3	25	21	24
Chelmsford	11	7	2	2	34	9	23
Canterbury	11	6	4	1	26	13	22
Bradford S	11	4	0	7	14	22	12
Wimbledon	11	3	1	7	14	26	10
Bracknell	11	1	2	8	4	22	5
Sunderland	11	0	2	9	7	29	2

SECOND DIVISION: Ealing 1 Woking Saints 2; Poynton 2 Sherwood 1, Old Loughtonians 2 Aldridge 2; Bluehats 0 West Witney 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aldridge	11	8	1	2	30	8	25
Loughtonians	11	8	1	2	27	13	25
Woking S	11	7	1	3	18	14	22
Sherwood	11	6	1	4	18	13	19
Ealing	11	4	1	6	12	13	13
Poynton	11	4	1	6	18	21	13
W Witney	11	2	2	7	14	22	8
Bluehats	11	0	2	9	8	41	2

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Dereham 2 Ashford 2, Ipswich 3 Cambs C 1, Sevenoaks 0 Harleston 3, WGC 0 St Albans 8. Midlands: Crimson R 3 North Staffs 1; Kettering 2 Hampton 4; Luton 3 Belper 0; Pickwick 0 Leicester 6. South: Dulwich 1 Horsham 0; Hampstead 4 Tulse Hill 1; Maidenhead 0 Hendon 2; Winchester 3 Reading 4; Winchmore Hill 4 Southampton 2. West: Bournemouth 2 Yate 1; Cheltenham 3 Taunton Vale 0, Colwall 5 Redland 1; Exmouth 5 Exeter 1, St Austell 4 Leominster 1

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Sheffield Steelers 1 Manchester Storm 6, Bracknell Bees 6 Cardiff Devils 5 (OT); Basingstoke Bison 2 Nottingham Panthers 3 (OT)

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Premier division: Cheadle 14 Old Waconians 5; *Sheffield Univ* 5 Mellor 17; *Heaton Mersey* 6 Timperley 6; Hulmeians 7 Cheadle Hulme, 14 Poynton 8 Stockport 16

REAL TENNIS

MELBOURNE: World championship eliminator: J Snow level with M Gooding 6-4, 6-0, 2-6, 3-6 (best of 13 sets)

RUGBY LEAGUE

First division

Dewsbury	34	Swinton	24
Featherstone	7	Hull K R	20
Keighley	10	Wakefield	14
Leigh	26	Whitehaven	45
Widnes	22	Rochdale	20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull K R	2	2	0	0	68	21	4
Whitehaven	2	2	0	0	77	40	4
Wakefield	2	2	0	0	38	32	4
Swinton	2	1	0	1	65	50	2
Hunslet	1	1	0	0	36	25	2
Dewsbury	1	1	0	0	34	24	2
Widnes	2	1	0	1	44	44	2
Rochdale	2	0	0	2	45	58	0
Keighley	2	0	0	2	26	55	0
Featherstone	2	0	0	2	21	52	0
Leigh	2	0	0	2	40	93	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Second division: Dewsbury Moor 32 London Students 22, Featherstone Amateur 43 Ovenden 10 New Earswick 12 Siddal 17

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Third round: Askam 14 Orrell St James 18, Broughton Red Rose 6 Farnworth 36, Castleford Panthers 14 Egremont Rangers 12, Clayton 50 Widnes Albion 4; Dodworth 30 Leigh Miners Rangers 38; Eastmoor Dragons 60 Blackpool Stanley 10; Embassy 11 Eccles 6, Hensingham 36 Halton Simms Cross 8, Heworth 22 Dudley Hill 40; Higginshaw 0 West Bowling 52 Ideal A B 1 58 Park Amateurs 14; Keighley Albion 0 Beverley 36, Leigh East 33 Blackbrook 22; Lowca 18 Stanningley 22; Millom 36 Crosfields 4; Moldgreen 24 Barrow Island 20, Norland 46 Shaw Rhinos 4; Normanton Knights 16 Oldham St Annes 21, Oulton Raiders 14 West Hull 0; Queens 48 Moorends 8, Redhill 32 Wigan Rosebridge 6, Rochdale Mayfield 26 Ellenborough Rangers 36; Thornhill 70 Dalton 6; Ulverston 17 Seaton 0, Walney Central 20 Hunslet Warriors 8; Waterhead 14 Castleford Lock Lane 24, Wath Brow Hornets 58 Underbank Rangers 6; Woolston Rovers 51 Shaw Cross Sharks 4, York Acorn 12 Hull Dockers 25. Postponed: Wigan St Patricks v Saddleworth Rangers

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Fifth leg (Auckland to São Sebastião): Positions (at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to São Sebastião): 1, EF Language (Swe) 461.2; 2, Brunelsunergy (Holl) 902.7; 3, Chessie Racing (US) 947.8; 4, *Swedish Match (Swe) 974.4*; 5, *Merit Cup* (Monaco) 986.9; 6, Toshiba (US) 1,009.3; 7, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,020.1; 8, Silk Cut (GB) 1,804.6; 9, EF Education (Swe) 2,461.9

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Adidas Victory Shield under-15 international match England 3 Northern Ireland 0 (at Oakwell) Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Northumberland 2 Cheshire 1. Staffordshire League: Stafford 4 Stoke 1. Northern Merit League: Blackburn 0 Bolton 2. Manchester Cup: Wigan 0 Rochdale 2. Young Trophy: East Northumberland 1 *Newcastle 1*. Yorkshire Trophy: Bradford 3 Rotherham 3. Southern Counties League: Slough 0 Portsmouth 7. Score League: Oxford 1 Gosport and Fareham 0

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: Regal Scottish Open: Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt E Henderson 5-4, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt M Campbell 5-1. Semi-finals: Higgins bt F O'Brien (Ire) 6-2, O'Sullivan bt S Lee (Eng) 6-2. Final: O'Sullivan leads Higgins 5-3.

TENNIS

ANTWERP, Belgium: European Community championship: Quarter-finals: K Kucera (Slovakia) bt P Korda (Cz) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, P Rafter (Aus) bt J Tarango (US) 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, M Rosset (Switz) w/o M Larsson (Swe) scr. Semi-finals: G Rusedski (GB) bt Kucera 6-4, 6-3, Rosset bt Rafter 7-6, 7-6. Final: Rusedski bt Rosset 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

MEMPHIS, Tennessee: St Jude Tournament: Third round: M Rios (Chile) bt V Spadea (US) 6-2, 6-3; M Chang (US) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 6-3; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-4, 6-4, M Woodforde (Aus) bt T Martin (US) 7-5, 6-3. Semi-finals: Chang bt G Kuerten (Br) 7-6, 7-6; Philippoussis bt Rios 6-4, 7-6.

HANOVER, Germany: WTA tournament: Quarter-finals: P Schnyder (Switz) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-4, 6-3, A Kournikova (Russ) bt A Huber (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, J Novotna (Cz) bt L Raymond (US) 6-1, 7-5. Semi-finals: Novotna bt Kournikova 6-3, 6-3, Schnyder bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-3, 6-3. Final: Schnyder bt Novotna 6-0, 2-6, 7-5.

BOGOTA: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: *P Suarez (Arg) bt C Martinez-Granados (Sp)* 6-2, 6-1, S Jeyaseelan (Can) bt L Schaeser (Par) 7-5, 6-2.

BATTERSEA PARK: Guardian Direct Cup qualifying tournament: First round: A Boetsch (Fr) bt M Petchey (Essex) 6-2, 6-4, D Nainkin (SA) bt R Furlan (It) 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, D Prinosil (Ger) bt D Sapsford (Surrey) 6-1, 6-4, R Schuttler (Ger) bt I Ljubicic (Cro) 6-4, 6-4, C Wilkinson (Hants) bt S Dickson (Cheshire) 5-7, 6-4, 7-6, M Tillstrom (Swe) bt F Wibier (Holl) 7-6, 6-2, K Carlsen (Den) bt L Herrera (Mex) 7-5, 6-2, M Martelli (It) bt D Sherwood (Yorks) 6-3, 7-6. Second round: Wilkinson bt Tillstrom 6-4, 7-5, Carlsen bt Martelli 6-2, 6-2, Prinosil bt Nainkin 7-5, 6-3, Schuttler bt Boetsch 6-2, 4-1, ret.

EASTBOURNE: LTA men's tournament: Semi-finals: F Flygt (Swe) bt M Lee (GB) 6-3, 6-4; C Haggard (SA) bt M Belgraver (Holl) 6-3, 6-3. Final: Flygt bt Haggard 6-3, 6-2

REDBRIDGE, Essex: WTA challenge tournament: Final: S Nacuk (Yug) bt L Woodroffe (Surrey) 6-4, 6-3

RUGBY UNION

Five Nations Championship

England 60 Wales 26

England: Tries: Rees 2, Back, Bracken, Dallaglio, Dawson, Greenwood, Healey. Cons: Grayson 7. Pens: Grayson 2. Wales: Tries: Bateman 2, Gibbs, G Thomas. Cons: Jenkins 3.

(at Twickenham)

Scotland 16 France 51

Scotland: Try: Stanger. Con: Chalmers. Pens: Chalmers 3. France: Tries: Bernat-Salles 2, M Lièvremont 2, Califano, Carbonneau, Castaignède. Cons: Castaignède 3, Lamaison 2. Pens: Castaignède, Lamaison.

(at Murrayfield)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	75	33	4
England	2	1	0	1	77	50	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	33	67	2
Ireland	1	0	0	1	16	17	0
Wales	1	0	0	1	26	60	0

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

Quarter-finals

Gloucester 39 Richmond 27

Gloucester: Tries: Osman 2, Deacon, Tombs, R Ward. Cons: A Morris 4. Pens: A Morris 2. Richmond: Tries: Cuthbert, Mason, Wright. Cons: Mason 3. Pens: Mason 2. Att: 3,557.

Sale 33 Northampton 12

Sale: Tries: Beim, Howarth, O'Cuinneagain, O'Grady, Yates. Cons: Mannix 4. Northampton: Tries: Barnes, Thorneycroft. Con: Hepher. Att: 1,500.

Leicester 62 London Irish 21

Leicester: Tries: L Lloyd 3, Corry, Hamilton, Murphy, Poole, Reed, Stransky, West. Cons: Stransky 6. London Irish: Tries: Briers, Charles, Spicer. Cons: Corcoran 3.

Allied Dunbar Premiership

Second division

West Hartlepool 20 Orrell 11

West Hartlepool: Tries: Benson, Vile, Wood. Con: Vile. Pen: Vile. Orrell: Try: Barlie. Pens: Verbickas 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	15	15	0	0	555	226	30
L Scottish	16	10	1	5	394	308	21
W Hartlepool	15	10	0	5	396	298	20
Rotherham	16	9	0	7	402	306	18
Orrell	16	9	0	7	388	303	18
Waterloo	16	9	0	7	397	351	18
Coventry	16	8	1	7	295	395	17
Moseley	15	7	0	8	302	315	14
Blackheath	15	6	0	9	340	375	12
Exeter	16	5	0	11	247	384	10
Wakefield	15	3	0	12	248	375	6
Fylde	15	1	0	14	191	529	2

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: First division: London Irish 38 Bristol 23.

Jewson National League

First division

Harrogate 31 Nottingham 36

Harrogate: Tries: Farrar 3, Feurer. Cons: James 4. Pen: James. Nottingham: Tries: Royer 3, Brookes, Holland. Cons: C Atkinson 4. Pen: C Atkinson.

Leeds 46 Lydney 13

Leeds: Tries: Mathies 2, Clayton, Edwards, Saverimutto, Shelly, Wynn. Cons: Tuipulotu 4. Pen: Tuipulotu. Lydney: Try: Meek. Con: Merrett. Pens: Merrett 2.

Newbury 58 Liverpool St H 14

Newbury: Tries: Davies 3, Abernethy, Holloway, Orr-Ewing, T Osman. Cons: Grecian 4. Pens: Grecian 5. Liverpool St Helens: Tries: Lupton, Saphton. Cons: Brett 2.

Otley 7 Worcester 68

Otley: Try: Billington. Con: Hawkins. Worcester: Tries: Baxter 6, Holford 2, Jenner 2, Bell, Bass. Cons: Bass 4.

Rosslyn Park 8 Rugby 39

Rosslyn Park: Try: Henderson. Pen: A Maddock. Rugby: Tries: Bale 2, Quantrill, Saunders, Underhill. Cons: Quantrill 4. Pens: Quantrill 2.

Wharfedale 18 Reading 10

Wharfedale: Tries: Davies, Whitfield. Con: Mounsey. Pens: Mounsey 2. Reading: Try: Clark. Con: Dance. Pen: Dance.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	20	18	0	2	772	227	36
L Welsh	19	16	1	2	630	308	33
Leeds	20	16	1	3	621	321	33
Rugby	18	15	0	3	537	291	30
Newbury	19	11	1	7	500	370	23
Nottingham	21	10	0	11	403	480	20
Otley	20	9	1	10	344	513	19
Reading	20	9	0	11	464	528	18
Rosslyn Park	19	7	1	11	327	425	15
Wharfedale	20	6	3	11	359	513	15
Liverpool St H	21	7	1	13	340	566	15
Harrogate	20	4	1	15	409	523	9
Lydney	20	3	0	17	283	419	6
Morley	19	2	0	17	227	712	4

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LEADING SCORERS: 258: S Tuipulotu (Leeds; 10 tries, 41 conversions, 42 penalty goals) 203: C Atkinson (Nottingham; 2t, 23c, 49pg); 203: C Raymond (London Welsh; 6t, 49c, 24pg, 1 dropped goal). 188: A Mounsey (Wharfedale; 4t, 22c, 43pg). 185: J Quantrill (Rugby; 6t, 30c, 25pg). 163: J Dance (Reading; 1t, 22c, 38pg). Tries: 20: N Baxter (Worcester). 14: C Davies (Newbury). 13: S Middleton (Leeds), J Reynolds (London Welsh). 11: J Jenner (Worcester), S Roskell (London Welsh). 10: *L Feurer (Harrogate)*, Tuipulotu.

Second division north

Hinckley	11	Sandal	17
Lichfield	6	Nuneaton	14
Manchester	50	Aspatria	19
Preston Grass	46	Kendal	22
Sedgley Park	8	Birmingham/S	18
Stourbridge	41	Walsall	29
Winnington Park	18	Sheffield	24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	20	18	0	2	653	275	36
Manchester	20	16	2	2	777	374	34
Kendal	20	13	2	5	485	280	28
Sedgley Park	20	11	2	7	485	409	24
Preston Grass	20	11	1	8	410	352	23
Sandal	19	10	1	8	363	387	21
Stourbridge	19	9	0	10	455	455	18
Nuneaton	20	9	0	11	327	383	18
Sheffield	20	9	1	10	430	388	17
Walsall	19	8	1	10	390	502	17
Aspatria	20	8	0	12	388	614	16
Hinckley	19	5	1	13	307	519	11
Winnington P	20	3	0	17	328	569	6
Lichfield	20	2	1	17	235	527	5

Second division south

Bridgwater	10	Havant	21
Cheltenham	70	Met Police	0
Clifton	22	Barking	41
Esher	13	Henley	9
North Walsham	17	Camberley	19
Redruth	38	Tabard	0
Weston-s-Mare	48	Plymouth	13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camberley	20	18	0	2	635	268	36
Barking	19	15	0	4	603	327	30
Henley	19	15	0	4	537	298	30
Esher	20	14	0	6	508	342	28
Cheltenham	20	11	1	8	488	414	23
Tabard	20	11	0	9	446	399	22
N Walsham	20	9	0	11	332	327	18
Weston-s-M	19	9	0	10	373	399	18
Bridgwater	20	9	0	11	423	542	18
Redruth	20	8	0	12	509	440	16
Clifton	19	7	0	12	297	458	14
Havant	19	5	1	13	252	491	11
Plymouth	19	3	0	16	330	587	6
Met Police	18	1	0	17	203	623	2

SOUTH WEST: First division: Gloucester Old Boys 30 Barry Hill 11.

MIDLANDS: First division: Burton 14 Hereford 14.

THWAITES NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians 12 Macclesfield 9; New Brighton 29 Middlesbrough 5; Wigton 27 West Park Bramhope 16.

Tennents Premiership

Third division

Aberdeen GSFP	36	Gordonians	12
Ayr	13	Stewart's Mel FP	27
Grangemouth	34	Glenrothes	7
Hillhead/J	22	Stewartry	12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Selkirk	9	9	0	0	181	68	0	2	38
Aberdeen	9	8	0	3	176	121	0	4	28
Stewart's M	8	6	0	2	162	108	0	4	28
Gordonians	9	5	1	3	140	141	0	1	23
Grangemth	9	4	0	5	196	148	0	6	22
Ayr	9	4	1	4	137	121	0	3	21
Glasgow S	9	4	0	5	149	200	0	2	18
Glenrothes	8	3	0	5	89	113	0	3	15
Hillhead/J	9	1	1	7	113	239	0	3	9
Stewartry	9	0	1	8	130	216	0	4	6

AIB League

First division

Clontarf	17	Old Belvedere	10
Cork Con	15	Garryowen	23
Dungannon	22	Terenure Coll	28
Lansdowne	9	Young Munster	16
Old Crescent	5	Blackrock Coll	3
Shannon	30	Dolphin	3
St Mary's Coll	84	Ballymena	33

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shannon	8	7	0	1	208	75	14
Garryowen	8	6	1	1	203	110	13
Young Munster	9	6	1	2	165	119	13
St Mary's Coll	9	6	0	3	303	198	12
Ballymena	10	6	0	4	271	180	12
Clontarf	10	5	0	5	199	190	10
Cork Con	10	5	0	5	162	156	10
Terenure Coll	9	4	1	4	140	147	9
Blackrock	10	4	1	5	210	231	9
Lansdowne	10	3	1	6	201	257	7
Dolphin	10	3	1	6	153	261	7
Dungannon	10	3	0	7	187	262	6
Old Crescent	9	3	0	6	98	208	6
Old Belvedere	10	2	0	8	181	257	4

Second division

Bective Rangers	12	Malone	13
Buccaneers	20	Old Wesley	15
Derry	31	DLSP	19
Galwegians	20	Monkstown	16
Skerries	33	Instonians	3
Sunday's Well	36	Wanderers	13
UCC	15	Greystones	26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Buccaneers	9	8	0	1	247	77	16
Galwegians	8	8	0	0	235	104	16
Sunday's Well	8	5	2	1	159	106	12
Derry	10	5	0	5	194	209	10
Old Wesley	9	4	1	4	193	160	9
Greystones	9	4	1	4	157	156	9
UCC	8	4	1	3	104	155	9
Malone	9	4	0	5	147	173	8
Wanderers	9	4	0	5	159	186	8
DLSP	9	4	0	5	165	205	8
Bective R	10	3	1	6	147	179	7
Skerries	8	3	0	5	119	140	6
Instonians	9	2	0	7	124	208	4
Monkstown	9	1	0	8	124	208	2

CLUB MATCHES: London Welsh 43 Llanelli 7. Cancelled: London Scottish v Oxford University

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds 0 Richmond 24; Waterloo 95 St Albans 0; Wasps 92 Crawley 0; Old Leamingtonians 10 Saracens 27.

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Treviso 43 Milan 18; Calvisano 18 Padova 40; Rovigo 12 Roma 14. Pool two: Fiamme Oro 23 San Dona 18; Bologna 26 L'Aquila 28; Piacenza 51 Livorno 3

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: A international match: England 22 Wales 41 (at Welford Road, Leicester). Under-21 international match: England 46 Wales 7 (at Sixways, Worcester). Student international match: England 24 Wales 15. Tour match: Glasgow Hawks 37 Toulouse 15.

Maria Mutola, of Mozambique, after breaking the world 800 metres indoor record. Photograph: Gareth Watkins

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm 103 Watford Royals 95; Manchester Giants 89 Chester Jets 73; Thames Valley Tigers 106 Worthing Bears 77

	P	W	L	Pts
Leopards	25	21	5	42
Birmingham	25	20	5	40
Sheffield	25	19	6	38
London Towers	27	18	8	38
Newcastle	27	18	9	35
Thames Valley	25	17	8	34
Manchester	26	13	13	26
Chester	25	10	15	20
Leicester	26	10	16	20
Derby	25	9	16	18
Worthing	29	7	22	14
Crystal Palace	27	5	22	10
Watford	29	3	26	6

*Does not include last night's matches

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Guildford 80 Mid-Sussex 72; Plymouth 85 Coventry 72; Solihull 96 Oxford 88; Stevenage 79 Richmond 80; Westminster 74 Teesside 84. Second division: Cardiff 90 Bournemouth 82; London 85 Swindon 67; Northampton 84 Chessington 76; Slough 59 South Bank 67; Thames Valley 69 Flintshire 83. Women: First division: NW London 76 Leicester 85; Northampton 61 Nottingham 57; Sheffield 87 Ipswich 54; Thames Valley 79 *Birmingham 88*. Second division: Cardiff 60 Richmond 48; Plymouth 52 Spelthorne 67; Sheffield 63 Chelmsford 29.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Thursday: Miami 110 Minnesota 84; Philadelphia 98 Cleveland 97, San Antonio 95 Detroit 94, Chicago 105 Indiana 97; Phoenix 95 Dallas 77; New York 91 Denver 77; Portland 101 Golden State 83; Sacramento 102 Boston 99. Friday: Atlanta 115 Vancouver 92; Cleveland 109 New Jersey 95; Orlando 93 Indiana 91; Minnesota 100 Houston 95 (OT); Milwaukee 84 Toronto 89; Phoenix 115 Charlotte 99; New York 98 Portland 89; Boston 106 Seattle 96; Golden State 95 Denver 88; Miami 91 Sacramento 77. Saturday: Philadelphia 98 New Jersey 89; Chicago 94 Washington 88; Detroit 94 Dallas 82; Utah 79 San Antonio 77; Charlotte 111 Los Angeles Clippers 98

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	36	18	.667	—
New York	30	22	.577	5
New Jersey	31	24	.564	5½
Orlando	27	27	.500	9
Washington	27	28	.491	9½
Boston	25	29	.463	11
Philadelphia	17	34	.333	17½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	41	15	.732	—
Indiana	37	16	.698	2½
Atlanta	32	23	.582	8½
Charlotte	31	23	.574	9
Cleveland	29	24	.547	10½
Milwaukee	27	26	.509	12½
Detroit	24	29	.453	15½
Toronto	11	42	.208	28½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	37	15	.712	—
San Antonio	36	17	.679	1½
Minnesota	29	23	.558	8
Houston	27	26	.509	10½
Vancouver	14	39	.264	23½
Dallas	10	44	.185	28
Denver	5	48	.094	32½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	40	13	.755	—
LA Lakers	36	15	.706	3
Phoenix	36	16	.692	3½
Portland	31	22	.585	9
Sacramento	24	30	.444	16½
Golden State	11	41	.212	28½
LA Clippers	11	43	.204	29½

GOLF

TERREY HILLS, Sydney: Canon Challenge: Leading final scores (Aus unless stated): 271: P O'Malley 63, 73, 64, 71. 280: P Gow 64, 72, 70, 74. 281: M Goggin 68, 68, 74, 71; W Smith 69, 74, 69, 69; K Druce 70, 73, 65, 73. 282: J Townsend (US) 73, 70, 67, 72; S Laycock 71, 71, 67, 73; S Tait 69, 68, 71, 74; *M Long (NZ)* 70, 67, 74, 71. 283: A Coltart (GB) 71, 69, 75, 68; P Senior 72, 71, 66, 74; T Damsey (US) 72, 69, 65, 77; G Kenny 67, 69, 76, 71; R Davis 70, 70, 72, 71. 284: L Parsons 68, 73, 69, 74; P Lonard 70, 68, 71, 75. Other scores: 287: D Carter (GB) 68, 75, 72, 72. 290: T Yoneyama (Japan) 76, 67, 75, 72. 292: T Techama (Japan) 71, 72, 72, 77. 293: S Higaki (Japan) 71, 72, 79, 71.

SUN CITY, South Africa: Dimension Data pro-am: Leading final scores (SA unless stated): 278: N Price (Zim) 69, 67, 68, 72. 281: M McNulty (Zim) 73, 66, 69, 73. 283: T van der Walt 69, 74, 70, 70. 285: R McCann (US) 73, 71, 71, 70; C Whitelaw 72, 68, 72, 73; B Lincoln 73, 70, 67, 75. 286: W Coetsee 72, 71, 73, 70; N van Rensburg 72, 72, 73, 69. 287: F Quinn Jr (US) 75, 72, 71, 69; M Gortana 69, 72, 72, 74; R Wessels 73, 69, 69, 76.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Open championship: Leading final scores: 278: L Westwood (GB) 70, 72, 67, 69; E Fryatt (GB) 70, 69, 70, 69 (Fryatt won sudden death play-off on second extra hole). 279: Kang Wook Soon (S Kor) 72, 73, 68, 66; C Chernock (US) 68, 71, 71, 69. 280: P McGinley (Ire) 70, 69, 71, 70. 282: R Cuello (Phil) 69, 71, 73, 69; F Casas (Phil) 71, 69, 75, 67; F Minoza (Phil) 71, 66, 74, 71. 283: M Schiene (US) 72, 71, 69, 71; M Cunning (US) 73, 69, 74, 67; P Jonas (Can) 68, 69, 73, 73. 284: B Elson (US) 70, 72, 71, 71; Park Nam Sin (S Kor) 77, 69, 69, 69; T Kalinowski (US) 68, 70, 71, 75. 285: Choi Kyoung Ju (S Kor) 72, 72, 70, 71; T Bjorn (Den) 70, 73, 71, 71; J Smith (US) 71, 69, 72, 73; Choi Sang Ho (S Kor) 65, 75, 72, 73; D Morland (Can) 69, 70, 71, 75. 286: B Guetz (US) 72, 72, 70, 72; G Norquist (US) 71, 71, 71, 73; B Kalinowski (US) 73, 69, 75, 69; Y Imano (Japan) 70, 72, 68, 76; R Wybe (US) 70, 71, 72, 73; Chang Tse-Peng (Taiwan) 68, 71, 75, 72.

OAHU: Hawaiian Women's Open: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 204: W Ward (won first play-off hole) 65, 69, 70; *D Dormann* 66, 66, 72. 205: L Davies (GB) 68, 68, 69. 206: K Albers 68, 69, 69; A Sorenstam (Swe) 69, 67, 70; B Burton 67, 69, 70. 207: M Mallon 69, 67, 71. 208: W Doolan (Aus) 71, 68, 69; K Weiss 70, 69, 69. 209: C Johnson 68, 72, 69; J Geddes 69, 70, 70; L Hackney (GB) 69, 67, 73; D Eggeling 68, 67, 74. 210: T Barrett 69, 72, 69; J Kangas 68, 71, 71; D Andrews 72, 66, 72; C Ranck 68, 70, 72; H Kobayashi (Japan) 68, 69, 73. Other British scores: 214: S Lowe 73, 70, 71; C Matthew 71, 68, 75. 215: H Dobson 70, 72, 73.

ATHLETICS

Indoor meetings

LIEVIN, France: IAAF meeting: Men: 60m: 1, S Cali (Fr) 6.57sec; 2, T Montgomery (US) 6.59; 3, D Powell (Jam) 6.59. 1,500m: 1, H El Guerrouj (Mor) 3:32.01; 2, V Niyongabo (Bur) 3:33.17; 3, L Rotich (Ken) 3:36.06. High jump: 1, M Buss (Ger) 2.28m, 2, *D Detchenique (Fr)* 2.28, 3, *T Janku (Cz)* 2.22. Pole vault: 1, S Bubka (Ukr) 5.91m; 2, M Tarasov (Russ) 5.91; 3, O Brits (Rsa) 5.80. Women: 60m: 1, C Arunwa (Nig) 7.02sec; 2, C Opara-Thompson (US) 7.10; 3, P Pendareva (Bul) 7.18. 400m: 1, G Breuer (Ger) 50.73sec; 2, H Fuchsova (Cz) 50.99. 800m: 1, M Mutola (Moz) 1:56.36; 2, N Dukhnova (Bel) 1:59.78; 3, L Vriesde (Sur) 2:00.12. Mile: G Szabo (Rom) 4:27.27. 60m hurdles: 1, M Freeman (Jam) 7.83sec; 2, M Morrison (US) 7.83; 3, P Girard (Fr) 7.92. Triple jump: 1, S Kasparkova (Cz) 14.78m; 2, A Hansen (GB) 14.73, 3, R Mateescu (Rom) 14.63.

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: View From AAA Indoor championships: Junior men: 60m: C Malcolm (Cardiff) 6.82sec. 800m: G Beard (Dudley and Stourbridge) 1min 53.13sec. 60m hurdles: C Baillie (Victoria Park) 8.10. High Jump: C McMaster (Shaftesbury Barnet) 2.10m. Pole Vault: C Linskey (Shaftesbury Barnet) 4.70m. Long Jump: S Wells (Havering Mayesbrook) 7.13m. Triple Jump: N Thomas (Blackheath) 15.20m. 5km walk: D Kidd (St Lawrence School) 12:45.85. Junior women: 60m: R White (Blackburn) 7.55. 1500m: C Ware (Andover) 4:53.57. 60m hurdles: S Claxton (Colchester) 8.53. Long Jump: C Freeman (Leeds City) 5.98m. Men under-17: 60m: M Lewis Francis (Birchfield) 6.79. 400m: G Ankers (Shildon) 50.45. 800m: A Mcindoe (Ayr Seaforth) 2:00.08. 60m hurdles: N Palmer (Cardiff) 8.23. High Jump: K McKeown (Ayr Seaforth) 2.07m. Women under-17: 60m: N Smellie (Essex Ladies) 7.68. 300m: N Sanders (Wycombe Phoenix) 39.95. 800m: C Riley (Park High School) 2:15.11. 60m hurdles: H Worsey (Leicester Coritanians) 8.53. Pole Vault: K Wnuk (Croydon) 2.90m. Boys under-15: 60m: D Watson (Blackburn) 7.50. 400m: R Preddy (Gloucester) 50.72. 800m: E Bailey (City of Stoke) 2:08.79. 60m hurdles: K Sinclaire (Sutton) 8.80. Pole Vault: M Parker (City of Hull) 3m. Girls under-15: 60m: S Denielle 7.77. 800m: J Tunstall (Park High School) 2:26.41. 60m hurdles: D Selley (Preseli) 8.94

Cross country

MANSFIELD: View From English National Relay Championships: Senior men (4 x 5km): 1, Bingley 1hr 3min, 2, Morpeth 1:03.21; 3, Loughborough Students 1:03.25; 4, Shaftesbury Barnet 1:03.32; 5, Coventry Godiva 1:03.21, 6, Southampton Running Club 1:03.38. Fastest lap: G Tromans (Coventry Godiva) 14.59. Senior women (3 x 3km): 1, Birchfield 31:54, 2, Bedford 32:22; 3, Shaftesbury Barnet 32:28; 4, Charnwood 32:32; 5, Sale 33.10; 6, Hallamshire 33:12. Fastest lap: A Davies (Basingstoke and Mid Hants) and L Talbot (Bedford) 10:15. Junior men (4 x 3km) 1, Aldershot, Farnham and District 38:24, 2, Notts 38:49; 3, Solihull and Small Heath 39:09. Fastest lap: S Haughan (Hounslow) 9:11. Junior women (3 x 2.5km): 1, Loughborough Students 28:09; 2, Charnwood 28:12; 3, Morpeth 29:00. Fastest lap: L Worden (Charnwood) 9:06. Men under-17 (4 x 2.5km): 1, Shaftesbury Barnet 32:52; 2, Blackheath 32:56; 3, Aldershot, Farnham and District 32:58. Fastest lap: C Thompson (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 7.33. Boys under-15 (4 x 2km): 1, Havering Mayesbrook 26.52; 2, Sunderland 27.18; 3, Morpeth 27.19. Fastest lap: M Hassan (Sunderland) 6.20. Girls under-15 (3 x 2km): 1, Peterborough 22.58, Sale 23.07; 3, Shaftesbury Barnet 23:10. *Fastest lap: L Whittaker (Sale)* 7:14. Girls under-13 (3 x 2km): 1, Bedford 23:52, 2, Sale 23.55, 3, Luton 24.03. Fastest lap: D Woods (Sale) 7.35

HALTON: Inter-Services Championships: Men (10km): 1, Sgt R Finch (Army) 31min 13sec; 2, Cpl A Shepherd (Army) 31.23; 3, Cpl D Barton (Royal Air Force) 31.32. Teams: 1, Army 28pts, 2, Royal Air Force 57, 3, Royal Navy 109. Veterans: 1, Capt J Rye (Royal Navy) 33.02, 2, Capt S Lonnen (Army) 33.40; 3, Sgt D Reed (Royal Air Force) 33.49. Teams: 1, Royal Air Force 19, 2, Army 27, 3, Royal Navy 45. Women (5km): 1, AC P Mason (Royal Air Force) 19.39, 2, Capt L Higgs (Army) 19:59; 3, Sgt S Sharp (Army) 20.11. Teams: 1, Army 17, 2, Royal Air Force 19; 3, Royal Navy 57. Junior men (5km): 1, Off Cdt R Lawes (Army) 18:15, 2, Pte C Manthorp (Army) 18.26, 3, Pte K Shepherd (Army) 18:29. Teams: 1, Army 11, 2, Royal Navy 32, 3, Royal Air Force 51

SWANLEY: Kent League: 1, B Roydon (Medway) 29min 24sec; 2, C Knight (GEC Avionics) 30.06; 3, S Williams (Medway) 30.22. Teams: 1, Medway 32pts; 2, Kent AC 60, 3, Tonbridge 73. Final positions: 1, Medway 416, 2, Kent AC 400; 3, Tonbridge (holders) 389

BELTRING: Kent Women's League (5km): 1, J Hamer (Medway) 17min 21sec, 2, C Parkins (Ashford) 17:35; 3, H Walker (Blackheath) 17:57. Teams: 1, Medway 14pts; 2, Ashford 29; 3, Invicta East Kent 42. Veteran: S James (Paddock Wood) 19.29. Final positions: 1, Medway 53; 2, Ashford 163, 3, Invicta East Kent 183.

CROYDON: Surrey Ladies League (6km): Division 1: 1, A Fletcher (Dulwich Runners) 20min 56sec, 2, A Mellowdew (Epsom and Ewell) 21:10; 3, E Denallova (South London Harriers) 21:15. Teams: 1, South London Harriers 42pts; 2, Dulwich Runners 68, 3, Epsom and Ewell 85. Final positions: 1, South London Harriers 39; 2, Dulwich Runners 34; 3, West 4 Harriers 29. Division 2: 1, A Stiles (British Airways) 20:21, 2, J Mitchell (Croydon) 20.38; 3, R Disley (Thames Hare and Hounds) 21.04. Teams: 1, Thames Hare and Hounds 52; 2, Veterans AC 71, 3, Striders of Croydon 162. Veteran: M Statham (Holland Sports) 22.00. Final positions: 1, Thames Hare and Hounds 71, 2, Veterans AC 63, 3, Wimbledon Windmilers 63

CRAWLEY: Sussex League: Men (5 miles): D Rathbone (Brighton and Hove) 26min 26sec, 2, K Holland (Crawley) 26.46, 3, N Adams (Bristol, guest) 27:11, 4, G Hill (Phoenix) 27.15. Teams: 1, Brighton and Hove 45pts; 2, Crawley 102; 3, Hailsham Harriers 128. Veteran: P Witcomb (Brighton and Hove) 28.40. Final positions: 1, Brighton and Hove 116, 2, Crawley 435, 3, Hailsham Harriers 522. Women (3 miles): 1, L Spencer (Chichester Runners) 18.40; 2, L Jones (Hailsham Harriers) 18:06; 3, J Hind (Hastings) 19:08. Teams: 1, Hastings 46; 2, Hailsham Harriers 57; 3, Horsham Blue Star 75. Final positions: 1, Hailsham Harriers 150; 2, Hastings 194, 3, Horsham Blue Star 221.

SWIMMING

KOWLOON PARK, Hong Kong: World Cup: Saturday: Men: Freestyle: 100m: 1, A Popov (Russ) 49.15sec, 2, R Upton (Aus) 49.54; 3, L Vismara (It) 49.60. 400m: 1, J Carstensen (Den) 3min 45.09sec, 2, *J Hoffmann (Ger)* 3:45.16; 3, *O Samnadin* (Fr) 3:58.47. Backstroke: 100m: 1, G Huegill (Aus) 54.97sec, 2, R Romero (Br) 55.36; 3, T Karlo (Cro) 55.44. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, M Warnecke (Ger) 27.60; 2, P Isaksson (Swe) 28.30, 3, B Dellaca (NZ) 28.97. 200m: 1, A Goukov (Bela) 2min 10.72sec; 2, Isaksson 2:14.84; 3, S Ferguson (NZ) 2:15.75. Butterfly: 50m: 1, Huegill 23.93sec; 2, D Silantiev (Ukr) 24.33; 3, D Carlsson (Swe) 24.38. 200m: 1, Silantiev 1min 55.82sec; 2, W Kirby (Aus) 1:58.24; 3, Pan Licong (China) 2:01.08. Individual medley: 100m: 1, C Keller (Ger) 56.17sec; 2, M Jacobson (Swe) 57.25, 3, Ferguson 57.85. 400m: 1, Keller 4min 16.06sec; 2, Jacobson 4.16.33; 3, Samnadin 4:32.42. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, S Völker (Ger) 25.12sec, 2, Nian Yun (China) 26.03; 3, J Sjoberg (Swe) 26.09. 200m: 1, J Greville (Aus) 1min 59.77sec; 2, J Nakatani (Japan) 2:01.15; 3, *Nian Yun* 2:01.17. *800m*: 1, S Collings (GB) 8:33.36; 2, Greville 8:34.51, 3, H Billington (GB) 8.42.84. Backstroke: 50m: 1, Volker 28.31sec; 2, T Hagiwara (Japan) 28.57; 3, L Lipscombe (NZ) 29.51. 200m: 1, Hagiwara 2min 9.22sec, 2, H Norfolk (NZ) 2:11.53; 3, Lipscombe 2:11.63. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, S Bondarenko (Ukr) *1min 7.51sec*; 2, S Gerasch (Ger) 1:08.16; 3, B Becue (Bel) 1:08.72. Butterfly: 100m: 1, M Jacobsen (Den) 59.59sec, 2, Sjoberg 1:00.08; 3, Chen Yan (China) 1:00.71. Individual medley: 200m: 1, N Hetzer (Ger) 2min 14.19sec; 2, Chen Yan 2:14.41, 3, Norfolk 2:15.24. Yesterday: Men: Freestyle: 50m: 1, Popov 22.08sec; 2, Vismara 22.29; 3, Huegill 22.67. 200m: 1, Carstensen 1min 47.18sec, 2, Keller 1:47.48; 3, Kirby 1:47.69. 800m: 1, Hoffmann 7:44.39; 2, Carstensen 7:59.15; 3, M Martin (NZ) 8:09.21. Backstroke: 50m: 1, Karlo 25.42sec 2, Carlsson 25.53; 3, R Braun (Ger) 25.63. 200m: 1, Braun 1min 57.87sec; 2, Romero 1:59.24; 3, R Hass (Aus) 2:00.19. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, *Warnecke 1:00.65; 2, Goukov 1:01.18, 3,* Isaksson 1:01.53. Butterfly: 100m: 1, Silantiev 52.37sec, 2, Huegill 52.53, 3, Carlsson 53.96. Individual medley: 200m: 1, Jacobson 2min 02.18sec; 2, Samnadin 2:04.13, 3, D Kent (NZ) 2:04.72. Women: Freestyle: 100m: 1, Völker 55.53sec; 2, Hagiwara 56.52; 3, Nian Yun 56.66. 400m: 1, Greville 4min 11.84sec; 2, Collings 4:13.77, 3, P Banovic (Cro) 4:15.47. Backstroke: 100m: 1, Völker 1:00.98; 2, Chen Yan 1:02.15, 3, Lipscombe 1:02.37. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, Gerasch 31.52sec; 2, Bondarenko 31.57, 3, M Tong (China) 32.54. 200m: 1, Becue 2min 28.85sec; 2, F Biscia (It) 2.29.40, 3, K Biemond (Fr) 2:30.76. Butterfly: 50m: 1, Sjoberg 27.28sec; 2, Jacobsen 27.31, 3, Chen Yan 27.97. 200m: 1, Jacobsen 2min 09.89sec; 2, S Skou (Den) 2:11.46, 3, K Jaeke (Ger) 2:12.74. Individual medley: 100m: 1, Hagiwara 1:02.75; 2, Hetzer 1:04.41; 3, A *Robson (NZ) 1:04.61. 400m: 1, Hetzer* 4:42.72; 2, Norfolk 4:46.92; 3, L Porchianello (It) 4:50.30

LEEDS: Speedo British Grand Prix: Men: Backstroke: 200m: 1, A Ruckwood (Birmingham) 2min 4.66sec, 2, D Smith (Loughborough Students) 2:07.21; 3, G Tan (Stirling Students) 2:07.83. Butterfly: 200m: 1, T Kinugasa (Leeds) 2:05.81, 2, I Wilson (Leeds) 2:08.02; 3, R Ashcroft (Wigan Wasps) 2:08.13. Women: Freestyle: 800m: 1, J Fawkes (Stockport Metro) 9:01.76, 2, C Davey (Norwich Penguins) 9:03.94, 3, K Nisbet (Leeds) 9:07.19. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, N Thornley (Salford) 1:14.48, 2, L Hindmarsh (Leeds) 1:15.04; 3, L Middlemore (Nova Centurion) 1:15.33. Butterfly: 50m: 1, S Rolph (Newcastle) 28.97; 2, C Foot (York City) 29.23, 3, R Brett (Loughborough University) 29.46

WINTER OLYMPICS

BIATHLON

MEN: 4 x 7.5km relay (missed targets in brackets): 1, Germany (F Luck, S Fischer, P Sendel, R Gross) 1hr 21min 36.2sec (0); 2, Norway (O Bjoerndalen, D Bjoerndalen, H Hanevold, E Gjelland) 1:21:56.3 (0); 3, Russia (V Maigourov, S Tarassov, V Dratschev, P Mouslimov) 1:22:19.3 (0), 4, *Belarus 1:23:14.0 (0); 5, Poland* 1:24:09.8 (0); 6, Latvia 1:24:24.4 (2), 7, France 1:24.53.0 (2); 8, Finland 1:25.01.4 (2), 9, Italy 1:25.07.3 (1), 10, Sweden 1:25:25.7 (0)

BOBSLEIGH

FOUR-MAN (after final run): 1, Germany II (C Langen, O Hampel, M Jakobs, M Zimmermann) 2min 39.41sec; 2, Switzerland I (M Rohner, B Seitz, M Wasser, M Nuessli) 2.40.01; equal 3, Great Britain I (S Olsson, P Attwood, C Rumbolt, D Ward) 2:40.06 and France I (B Mingeon, M Robert, E Le Chanony, E Hostache) 2:40.06, 5, United States I 2:40.08, 6, Latvia I 2:40.26, 7, Switzerland II 2:40.28; 8, Germany I 2:40.32; equal 9, Canada I and Austria I 2:40.39

ICE HOCKEY

MEN. Bronze medal match: Finland 3 Canada 2. Final: Czech Republic 1 Russia 0

NORDIC SKIING

MEN: 50km freestyle: 1, B Daehlie (Nor) 2hr 05min 08.2sec, 2, N Jonsson (Swe) 2:05:16.3, 3, C Hoffmann (Austria) 2:06:01.8, 4, A Prokurorov (Rus) 2:06:41.5; 5, F Valbusa (It) 2:06:44.3, 6, T Alsgaard (Nor) 2:07:21.5, 7, J Muehlegg (Ger) 2:07:25.3, 8, V Smirnov (Kaz) 2:07:26.4, 9, *M Pozzi (It) 2:08:13.2, 10, S Fauner (It)* 2:08:44.3

SKIING

MEN: Slalom: 1, H-P Buraas (Nor), (55.28sec, 54.03) 1min 49.31sec; 2, O Furuseth (Nor), *(55.53, 55.11) 1:50.64*, 3, T Sykora (Austria), (55.08, 55.60) 1:50.68. 4, T Stiansen (Nor) (55.70, 55.20) 1:50.90. 5, C Mayer (Austria), (56.37, 54.72) 1:51.09. 6, T Stangassinger (Austria), (55.63, 55.62) 1:51.25. 7, F Jagge (Nor), (56.06, 55.33) 1:51.39; 8, J Chenal (Fr), (56.68, 54.83) 1:51.51. 9, *K Palander (Fin), (56.37, 55.44)* 1:51.81, 10, P Bourgeat (Fr), (56.28, 55.54) 1:51.82. Disq: A Baxter (GB).

SPEED SKATING

SHORT TRACK: Men. 500m: Quarter-finals (first two qualify for semi-finals): Heat one: 1, M Gagnon (CAN) 43.254sec, 2, H Uematsu (Japan) 43.657. Heat two: 1, An Yulong (China) 43.384, 2, Chae Ji-Hoon (S Kor) 43.622. Heat three: 1, Li Jiajun (China) 42.861; 2, T Nishitani (Japan) 42.980. Heat four: 1, D Versteeg (Holl) 43.377; 2, Kim Dong-Sung (S Kor) 43.810. *Semi-finals (first two qualify for final)*: Heat one: 1, Uematsu 43.697; 2, An 43.796. Heat two: 1, Nishitani 42.756; 2, Gagnon 42.780. Final: 1, Nishitani 42.862, 2, An 43.022, 3, Uematsu 43.713. B final: 1, Chae 42.832; 2, Versteeg 42.933; 3, Gabel 43.072. 5,000m relay: Final: 1, Canada (M Gagnon, F Drolet, D Campbell, E Bedard) 7min 6.075sec, 2, South Korea (Kim Dong-Sung, Lee Ho-Eung, Lee Jun-Hwan, Chae Ji-Hoon) 7:06.776; 3, China (An Yulong, Yuan Ye, Feng Kai, Li Jiajun) 7:11.559. B final: 1, Japan (Y Shinohara, T Kodera, N Tamura, S Terao) 7:01.660; 2, United States (T O'Hare, E Flaim, R Smith, A Gabel) 7:02.014; 3, Great Britain (M Rowe, M Jasper, N Gooch, D Allardice) 7:06.462. Women: 1,000m (qualifiers for quarter-finals): A Peterson (US) 1min 33.530sec, 2, Han Ryon-Hui (N Kor) 1:34.493; Yang Yang S (China) 1:35.244; S Ozawa (Japan) 1:35.275, I Teshigawara (Japan) 1:35.964, M Candini (It) 1:35.971, Yang Yang A (China) 1:37.062; E Wiegers (Holl) 1:37.775, Kim Yun-Mi (S Kor) 1:39.042; Chun Lee-Kyung (S Kor) 1:39.107, A Perreault (Can) 1:39.128, E Radanova (Bul) 1:39.279, I Charest (Can) 1:39.729; C Tanaka (Japan) 1:39.822, Won Hye-Kyung (S Kor) 1:44.006; Ho Jong-Hee (N Kor) 1:44.256. Quarter-finals (first two qualify for semi-finals): Heat one: 1, Yang Yang A 1:31.991, 2, Kim 1:32.097. Heat two: 1, Chun 1:38.068; 2, Teshigawara 1:38.446. Heat three: 1, Charest 1:37.200, 2, Yang Yang S 1:37.252. Heat four: 1, Won 1:36.210; 2, Peterson 1:36.274. Semi-finals (first two qualify for final): Heat one: 1, Won 1:35.606, 2, Yang Yang S 1:35.721. Heat two: 1, Yang Yang A 1:34.688, 2, Chun 1:34.789. Final: 1, Chun 1:42.776, 2, Yang Yang S 1:43.343, 3, Won 1:43.361. B final: 1, Peterson 1:37.348, 2, Teshigawara 1:37.693; 3, Kim 1:37.777

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	Total
Germany	12	9	8	29
Norway	10	10	5	25
Russia	9	6	3	18
Canada	6	5	4	15
United States	6	3	4	13
Holland	5	4	2	11
Japan	5	1	4	10
Austria	3	5	9	17
South Korea	3	1	2	6
Italy	2	6	2	10
Finland	2	4	6	12
Switzerland	2	2	3	7
France	2	1	5	8
Czech Republic	1	1	1	3
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
China	0	6	2	8
Sweden	0	2	1	3
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	0	1
Belarus	0	0	2	2
Kazakhstan	0	0	2	2
Australia	0	0	1	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1
Great Britain	0	0	1	1

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	40	80	good	crusty	fair	cloud	-5	22/2
(Good snow conditions upper slopes, snow showers today)								
AUSTRIA Obergurgl	35	130	fair	heavy	fair	snow	2	22/2
(Snow just starting to fall, Festkogl area very busy)								
FRANCE Alpe d'Huez	78	240	good	varied	good	snow	-1	22/2
(Snow falling has given great skiing on and off piste)								
ITALY Cervinia	60	150	good	crusty	soft	snow	1	22/2
(Fresh snow improving conditions, more still needed)								
SWITZERLAND Wengen	10	40	fair	heavy/d	worn	snow	3	22/2
(Much-needed snow has arrived, fresh snow all levels)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper, art - artificial.

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE

Enter our Fantasy Formula One game and enjoy the thrills and spills of the 1998 grand-prix season, which opens in Melbourne on March 8. With Damon Hill now with Jordan the battle is on to recapture the world championship from the Williams' star Jacques Villeneuve. Both drivers face stern opposition from Michael Schumacher, challenging for a third title and his first for Ferrari. The winner of our Fantasy Formula One title will drive away at the end of the season in a Ferrari 328 GTB, valued at over £40,000. This dream machine has a top speed of 155mph and does 0-60 in 6.6 seconds. Second prize is a holiday for two to the 1999 Australian Grand Prix. Third prize is a trip for two to the 1999 Monaco Grand Prix. Plus, you could win a trip for two, worth £5,000, to see this year's Australian Grand Prix in our pre-season prize draw, or one of 10 Formula 1 CD-Roms. Choose your fantasy team with time. Entry lines are open now, or you can enter by post. Pick your drivers and constructors from the groups specified below. Starting with the Brazilian Grand Prix, six races carry up to 600 bonus points for correctly predicting any of the first three drivers to finish. Bad driving and failing to finish will incur penalties. Full details of how you can make fantasies to strengthen your team will appear after the Australian Grand Prix.

THE PRIZES

STAR PRIZE The manager with the top score on our fantasy leaderboard after the final race of the season will win a Ferrari 328 GTB from **Garage on the Green**, Fulham, London SW6.

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INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS The manager of the team that scores the most points in each grand prix will win a pair of four-day passes, with centre transfer, for the 1998 or 1999 British Grands Prix, courtesy of Silverstone

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THE SCORING SYSTEM

DRIVERS ***For each lap completed***: 1 point. ***Finishing position***: 1st 60 points; 2nd 50; 3rd 40; 4th 30; 5th 29; 6th 28; 7th 27; 8th 26; 9th 25; 10th 24; 11th 23; 12th 22; 13th 21; 14th 20; 15th 19; 16th 18; 17th 17; 18th 16; 19th 15; 20th 14. ***Qualifying position***: Pole 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 24; 4th 23; 5th 22; 6th 21; 7th 20; 8th 19; 9th 18; 10th 17; 11th 16; 12th 15; 13th 14; 14th 13; 15th 12; 16th 11; 17th 10; 18th 9; 19th 8; 20th 7. ***Improvement from starting grid to finishing position***: 3 points per place improved. ***Fastest lap***: 10 points. ***Penalty points***: Any incident resulting in a driver being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points. Black flag -20 points

CONSTRUCTORS ***Finishing position (first car only)***: 1st 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 24; 4th 23; 5th 22; 6th 21; 7th 20; 8th 19; 9th 18; 10th 17; 11th 16; 12th 15; 13th 14; 14th 13; 15th 12; 16th 11; 17th 10; 18th 9; 19th 8; 20th 7. ***Penalty points***: Any incident resulting in a car being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1998 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian Grand Prix. ***Correctly predicting winning driver***: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

Damon Hill | David Coulthard | Jacques Villeneuve | Michael Schumacher | Eddie Irvine

DRIVERS

GROUP A	GROUP B
01 Damon Hill	07 Heinz-Harald Frentzen
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Eddie Irvine
03 David Coulthard	09 Mika Hakkinen
04 Giancarlo Fisichella	10 Jean Alesi
05 Jacques Villeneuve	11 Rubens Barrichello
06 Olivier Panis	12 Alexander Wurz
	13 Ralf Schumacher
	14 Jarno Trulli
	15 Johnny Herbert
	16 Mika Salo
	17 Pedro Diniz
	18 Jan Magnussen
	19 Toranosuke Takagi
	20 Ricardo Rosset
	21 Shinji Nakano
	22 Esteban Tuero*

*Subject to FIA approval

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C	GROUP D
23 Williams	29 Benetton
24 Ferrari	30 Jordan
25 Benetton	31 Stewart
26 McLaren	32 Tyrrell
27 Jordan	33 Minardi
28 Prost	

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01

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TO ENTER BY PHONE

Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on **0891 40 50 01** (+44 990 100 311 from Irish Republic). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 5, 1998 to qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix

TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

Give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland should enclose a sterling cheque for £3 or provide their credit-card details. The entry fee for readers resident outside the UK or Republic of Ireland is £15. Post the form to: *The Times* Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton LU7 1ZZ. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

To qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 4, 1998. Entries received after this date will only score points for any remaining grands prix. To be entered into the pre-season prize draw for the chance to win a trip to the Australian Grand Prix on March 8, 1998, entries must be received by first post Friday, February 27

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. For readers resident outside the UK or Rol the fee is £15. Post it to: ***The Times*** **Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ.** Your entry must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 4, 1998 to qualify for the Australian Grand Prix. *To enter the pre-season prize draw for the chance to win a trip to the Australian Grand Prix on March 8, entries must be received by first post on Friday, February 27*

GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS

1st | 2nd | 3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

Signature _____ Date _____

1. On which days do you usually buy *The Times*?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐
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Surname _____

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Postcode _____ Day tel _____

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Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Name on card _____

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above

Signature _____

3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐ TT

RULES

1 Race results will be taken as those standing at midnight on the Sunday of each grand prix. Subsequent changes affecting those results, as decreed by the FIA, will be applied to Fantasy Formula One. 2 Changes of circumstances: If a driver is replaced for any reason you will be deemed to have chosen the new driver; if a driver transfers to another team you will keep that driver as your selection. 3 New drivers become available for transfer as and when they become participants in the Formula One season. 4 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score at the end of the competition a tie break will come into effect to decide the overall prize-winner. 5 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score for an individual race prize, the winner will be selected at random. 6 The computerised record of your entry will be considered to be the entry. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete applications will be null and void and no refund will be made. 7 Prizes will only be awarded to teams which comprise three drivers from Group A, three drivers from Group B, three constructors from Group C and three constructors from Group D. 8 There is no limit to the number of teams a person may enter. 9 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only. Entries should take approximately seven minutes and cost 50p per minute. Calls from payphones cost approximately double this price. 10 Promotional and explanatory copy relating to the Fantasy Formula One game forms part of the terms and conditions for participation. 11 Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply and the decisions of the editors are final. 12 Entrants must be 16 years or over.

● For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

CHANGING TIMES

Human Rights Law Report — Strasbourg

UK electoral law breaches right to freedom of expression

Bowman v United Kingdom
(Case No 141/1996/762/959)

Before R. Bernhardt, President and Judges Thor Vilhjalmsson, L-E. Pettiti, B. Walsh, R. Macdonald, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, N. Valticos, E. Palm, A. N. Loizou, Sir John Freeland, A. B. Baka, M. A. Lopes Rocha, L. Wildhaber, D. Gotchev, P Jambrek, U. Lohmus, E. Levits, J. Casadevall and P. van Dijk

Registrar H. Petzold

Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney

(Judgment February 19)

The restriction imposed upon a campaigner barring her from publishing information with a view to influencing voters in parliamentary elections in favour of an anti-abortion candidate was, in the circumstances, disproportionate to the aim of securing equality between candidates.

The European Court of Human Rights held by fourteen votes to six that there had been a violation of the applicant's freedom of expression within the meaning of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 10 provides:

"1 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. . .

"2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

The applicant, Mrs Phyllis Bowman, a British national, was born in 1926 and lived in London. As executive director of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, she distributed 25,000 leaflets in Halifax shortly before the 1992 general election, outlining the views on abortion of the three main candidates.

She was charged under section 75 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 which made it a criminal offence for an unauthorised person to incur expenses in excess of £5 sterling in issuing publications with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate.

On September 28, 1993, at Southwark Crown Court, she was acquitted because the summons had been issued out of time.

The application to the European Commission of Human Rights, which was lodged on March 11, 1994, was declared partly admissible on December 4, 1995.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission adopted a report on September 12, 1996 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 10 (28 votes to 1). It referred the case to the Court on October 19, 1996.

el4 In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held:

The applicant complained that her prosecution under section 75 of the 1983 Act unjustifiably interfered with her right to freedom of expression.

I UK Government's preliminary objection

The Government contended, in the first place, that Mrs Bowman's application should have been declared inadmissible since she had been acquitted of the offence under section 75 of the 1983 Act and she could not therefore properly be described as a "victim" of a violation of the Convention.

The Court held that the fact that the prosecuting authorities had decided to commence proceedings against the applicant was, at the very least, a strong indication to her that, unless she modified her behaviour during future elections, she would run the risk of being prosecuted again and possibly convicted and punished.

In those circumstances she could properly claim to have been directly affected by the law in question (see, among other authorities *Norris v Ireland* (*The Times* October 31, 1988; [1988] Series A No 142, p16, paragraph 31) and, therefore, to be a victim of a violation of the Convention within the meaning of article 25(1).

The Government's preliminary objection was, accordingly, rejected.

II Alleged violation of article 10

A Existence of a restriction

The Court noted that section 75 of the 1983 Act did not directly restrain freedom of expression, but instead limited to £5 the amount of money which unauthorised persons were permitted to spend on publications and other means of communication during the election period.

Moreover, it did not restrict expenditure on the transmission of information or opinions in general, but only that incurred during the relevant period "with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate".

None the less, there could be no doubt that the prohibition contained in section 75 amounted to a restriction on freedom of expression, which directly affected Mrs Bowman.

B "Prescribed by law"

The Court considered, and indeed this was not disputed before it, that the restriction on expenditure provided for by section 75 of the 1983 Act was "prescribed by law".

C Legitimate aim

The Court found it clear that the purpose of section 75, particularly taken in the context of the detailed provisions on expenditure by electoral candidates contained in the 1983 Act, was to contribute towards securing equality between candidates.

It therefore concluded that the application of that law to Mrs Bowman pursued the legitimate aim of protecting the rights of others, namely the candidates for election and the electorate in Halifax and, to the extent that the prosecution was intended to have a deterrent effect, elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

D "Necessary in a democratic society"

The Court observed in the first place, that the limitation on expenditure prescribed by section 75 of the 1983 Act was only one of many detailed checks and balances which made up United Kingdom electoral law.

In such a context, it was necessary to consider the right to freedom of expression under article 10 in the light of the right to free elections protected by article 3 of the First Protocol to the Convention.

Free elections and freedom of expression, particularly freedom of political debate, together formed the bedrock of any democratic system (see *Mathieu-Mohin and Clerfayt v Belgium* ([1987] Series A No 113, p22, paragraph 47(i) and *Lingens v Austria* ([1986] Series A No 103-B, p26, paragraph 41-42).

The two rights were inter-related and operated to reinforce each other. As the Court had observed in the past, freedom of expression was one of the "conditions" necessary to "ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature": see *Mathieu-Mohin and Clerfayt* (at p24, paragraph 54).

For that reason, it was particularly important in the period preceding an election that opinions and information of all kinds were permitted to circulate freely.

None the less, in certain circumstances the two rights might come into conflict and it might be considered necessary, in the period preceding or during an election, to place certain restrictions, of a type which would not normally be acceptable, on the freedom of expression in order to secure the "free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature".

The Court recognised that, in striking a balance between those two rights, contracting states had a margin of appreciation, as they did generally with regard to the organisation of their electoral system.

The Court had to determine whether, in all the circumstances, the restriction on Mrs Bowman's freedom of expression was proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued and whether the reasons adduced by the national authorities in justification of it were relevant and sufficient.

It found a significant that the limitation on expenditure contained in section 75 of the 1983 Act was set as low as £5. That restriction applied only during the four to six weeks preceding the general election, so Mrs Bowman could have campaigned freely at any other time.

However, that would not, in the Court's view, have served her purpose in publishing the leaflets which was, at the very least, to inform the people of Halifax about the three candidates' voting records and attitudes on abortion during the critical period when their minds were focused on their choice of representative.

It was, moreover, not convinced that, in practice, she had access to any other effective channels of communication, for example, by ensuring that the material contained in the leaflets was published in a newspaper or broadcast on radio or television.

The Court therefore found that section 75 of the 1983 Act operated, for all practical purposes, as a total barrier to Mrs Bowman's publishing information with a view to influencing the voters of Halifax in favour of an anti-abortion candidate.

It was not satisfied that it was necessary thus to limit her expenditure to £5 in order to achieve the legitimate aim of securing equality between candidates, particularly in view of the fact that there were no restrictions placed upon political parties to advertise at national or regional level, provided that such advertisements were not intended to promote or prejudice the electoral prospects of any particular candidate in any particular constituency, or upon the freedom of the press to support or oppose the election of any particular candidate.

The Court accordingly concluded, Judges Valticos, Loizou, Baka, Jambrek, Sir John Freeland and Levits dissenting, that the restriction in question was disproportionate to the aim pursued and that there had been a violation of article 10 of the Convention.

III Application of article 50

The applicant claimed damages for the stigma, stress and anxiety she had suffered as a result of being prosecuted, together with legal costs and expenses.

The Court did not award any compensation for the non-pecuniary damage claimed by Mrs Bowman, but it did award £1,633.64 in respect of domestic legal costs and £25,000 in respect of Strasbourg legal costs and expenses.

Court of Appeal — Law Report February 23 1998 — Court of Appeal

Protecting interests of tenant

Laimond Properties Ltd v Al-Shakarchi

Before Lord Justice Roch and Sir Brian Neill

(Judgment February 10)

Where the court was satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation was available, that it was proper to make a possession order against a protected tenant and that the tenancy of the alternative accommodation would afford the tenant security, the court was not obliged to direct that the tenancy be a protected tenancy.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant tenant, Rowida Al-Shakarchi, from an order of Judge Hallgarten, QC, in West London County Court on February 12, 1997 granting possession of the first floor flat at 108 Oakley Street, Chelsea, London to the plaintiff landlords, Laimond Properties Ltd, subject to certain undertakings by the plaintiffs.

Section 1 of the Housing Act 1988 provides:

"(1) A tenancy . . . is for the purpose of this Act an assured tenancy if and so long as . . . (c) the tenancy is not one which, by virtue of subsection (2) . . . cannot be an assured tenancy.

"(2) . . . if and so long as a tenancy falls within any paragraph in Part I of Schedule 1 to this Act it cannot be an assured tenancy."

Paragraph 13 of Part I of Schedule 1 to the 1988 Act refers to: "A protected tenancy within the meaning of the Rent Act 1977."

Section 34 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) A tenancy which is entered into on or after the commencement of this Act cannot be a protected tenancy unless . . . (c) it is granted to a person . . . in the following circumstances, (i) prior to the grant of the tenancy, an order for possession of a dwelling-house was made against him [under section 98(1) of the Rent Act 1977] and (ii) the tenancy is of the premises which constitute . . . suitable alternative accommodation . . . (iii) in the proceedings for possession the court considered that, in the circumstances, the grant of an assured tenancy would not afford the required security and, accordingly, directed that the tenancy would be a protected tenancy."

Mr Paul Staddon for the defendant; Mr Paul St J. Letman for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said the possession order had been granted subject to an undertaking by the landlords that the tenant would be provided with alternative accommodation and would not be adversely affected by having to move there.

The defendant had taken a monthly tenant of the flat from the plaintiffs in 1988, having previously been a tenant of another of their properties. She was a protected tenant under Part VII of the Rent Act 1977.

The plaintiffs had acquired the freehold of 108 Oakley Street in 1990 and sought possession to refurbish the defendant's flat.

She had refused to grant possession and the plaintiffs had sought a possession order under section 98 of the 1977 Act. The plaintiffs had offered alternative accommodation which it was now agreed was physically and financially suitable.

The judge had accepted that an assured tenancy of the alternative premises would have a security equivalent to that of the statutory tenancy in Oakley Street.

He had concluded that the new tenancy of the alternative accommodation could be expressed by the parties to be and would in law be an assured tenancy.

The defendant maintained on appeal that the creation of such a tenancy was rendered impossible by the terms of the 1977 Act and the 1988 Act.

His Lordship said that Parliament in 1988 had intended to introduce a new system of security of tenure for tenants of dwelling houses, namely assured tenancies.

The defendant submitted that it followed from section 1(1) and (2) of the 1988 Act and paragraph 13(1) in Part I of Schedule 1 to that Act that the tenancy of 108 Oakley Street could never be an assured tenancy. Since there could be no contracting out of either the 1977 or 1988 Acts and there would be no gap between the old and new tenancies, it could never be an assured tenancy.

In his Lordship's judgment, it followed from the wording of section 34(1) of the 1988 Act that tenancies entered into after January 1989 could not be protected tenancies unless they came within the exceptions to section 34(1).

Before it could convert a tenancy made after the commencement of the 1988 Act into a protected tenancy, subparagraph (c) of section 34(1) required the court to be of opinion that the grant of an assured tenancy would not afford the required security.

It must follow that where, as in the instant case, the court was satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation was available, that it was proper to make an order for possession of the dwelling-house against the tenant and that the tenancy of the alternative accommodation, which would be an assured tenancy, would afford the required security, the court was not obliged to direct that the tenancy be a protected tenancy.

Sir Brian Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Oliver O. Fisher & Co, West Kensington; Julian Holy, Chelsea.

Code compliance failure not necessarily fatal

Regina v Kelly

Before Lord Justice Potter, Mr Justice David Steel and Judge Rhys Davies

(Judgment February 10)

While the importance of compliance with the provisions of part 2 of Code D of the *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984* (s.66) *Codes of Practice* on the identification by witnesses, could not be over emphasised, failure so to comply would not necessarily prove fatal in every case.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Liam Paul Kelly against his conviction on May 21, 1997, at Cardiff Crown Court (Judge Gibbon, QC and a jury) of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm and violent disorder, for which he was sentenced to concurrent terms respectively of 21 months and nine months detention in a young offender institution.

Mr Peter Davies, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant: Mr Guy T. H. Jones for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER, giving the judgment of the court, said that although the defendant had requested one, an identity parade had not been held owing, according to the police, to administrative difficulties.

Counsel for the defendant claimed that the failure to hold an identification parade was crucial.

The prosecution pointed out that the case was run, and summed up, as one in which the identification of the defendant as the victim's assailant depended upon deduction from uncontested evidence.

Their Lordships agreed that this was a case where proof of guilt rested on the basis of deduction from the primary facts and not upon a visual identification.

It had been entirely proper for the judge to reject the submission of "no case", providing that, as he did, he clearly drew the jury's attention to the failure to hold the parade and the advantage lost to the appellant as a result. There was no doubt that the conviction was safe. The case was not only powerful in itself. It was one of a character which cried out for the appellant to give evidence if the doubts sought to be cast upon the prosecution case were to be substantiated.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, South Glamorgan.

State entitled to enforce obscenity prohibition

Wright v Commissioners for Customs and Excise

Where video tapes and magazines were seized by customs because they were obscene or indecent, it was not a breach of European law to forfeit them as member states of the Community were entitled to decide for themselves what prohibitions were justified on the ground of public morality.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) so held on February 13 when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated of Mark Richard Wright from the dismissal by Warwick Crown Court (Judge Pyke and justices) on December 21, 1995 of his appeal from the order of Solihull Justices on July 11, 1995 forfeiting the imported goods.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY stated that article 30 of the EC Treaty (OJ 1992 c224 p6) prevented restrictions on imports between member states and that importing goods from one member state to the United Kingdom for private purposes came within the definition of trade under article 30.

However, article 36 did not preclude restrictions on imports on tha ground of public morality or public policy and that was confirmed in *R v Henn* ([1981] AC 850).

If the goods came within section 1(1) of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 they could not be lawfully traded in this country and article 36 could be invoked to preserve the prohibition on importation in section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876.

Although the items were imported for private use, there was a public morality purpose to be served in protecting the less innocent from further corruption and the addict from increasing an addiction.

Justices using local knowledge

Norbrook Laboratories (GB) Ltd v Health and Safety Executive

Where justices relied on personal local knowledge in a trial they should let both the defence and prosecution know of that fact in order to give them an opportunity of commenting.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) so held on February 3 when allowing the appeal by way of case stated by Norbrook Laboratories (GB) Ltd from their conviction by Carlisle Justices on July 3, 1997 for failing to conduct an undertaking in such a way as to ensure so far as was reasonably practicable that a person not in their employment might be affected, contrary to sections 3(1) and 33(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that it was not objectionable for justices to rely on issues of local notoriety.

It was always wise of justices to make the fact that local knowledge was going to be used known to the defence and the prosecution so as to give those representing the parties the opportunity of commenting upon the knowledge which the justices claimed to have and which they aimed to use for the purpose of aiding them in reaching a determination: *Bowman v DPP* ([1991] RTR 263).

The justices had not made it clear to the parties that they were relying on local information when making their decision and therefore the appeal would be allowed.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

No bias in same sex ban on travel perk

Grant v South-West Trains Ltd

Case C-249/96

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. Gulmann, H. Ragnemalm, M. Wathelet, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and L. Sevón

Advocate General M. B. Elmer

(Opinion September 30, 1997)

(Judgment February 17)

An employer's refusal to grant travel concessions to an employee's partner of the same sex, where they were allowed to the spouse or partner of the opposite sex of an employee, did not constitute discrimination contrary to Community law.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in giving a preliminary ruling on questions referred under article 177 of the EC Treaty by a Southampton industrial tribunal.

By employees' contracts of employment and regulations adopted by the employer, South-West Trains Ltd, free and reduced-rate travel concessions were granted to employees and also "for one legal spouse" and "for one common law opposite sex spouse of staff . . . subject to a statutory declaration being made that a meaningful relationship has existed for a period of two years or more. . ."

The applicant employee, Lisa Jacqueline Grant, applied for concessions for her female partner, with whom she declared she had had a meaningful relationship for over two years, but was refused on the ground that for unmarried persons concessions were only grantable for a partner of the opposite sex.

The industrial tribunal's reference sought essentially an answer to the question whether the refusal constituted discrimination prohibited by article 119 of the Treaty, on equal pay for men and women, and Council Directive 75/117/EEC of February 10, 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (OJ 1975 L45 p19).

In its judgment the Court of Justice held:

In the light of all the material in the case, three questions fell to be answered, the first of which was whether a condition such as that in issue constituted discrimination based directly on the sex of the worker.

The condition that the worker had to live in a stable relationship with a person of the opposite sex in order to benefit from the travel concessions applied regardless of the sex of the worker, so that concessions were refused to a male person living with a male just as to a female worker living with a female.

Since the condition applied in the same way to female and male workers, it did not constitute discrimination directly based on sex.

The second question was whether Community law now required stable relationships between two persons of the same sex to be regarded by all employers as equivalent to marriages or stable relationships outside marriage between two persons of opposite sex.

Ms Grant submitted that the laws of the member states, as well as those of the Community and other international organisations, increasingly treated the two situations as equivalent.

While the European Parliament had indeed declared that it deplored all forms of discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation, the Community had not as yet adopted rules providing for such equivalence.

Moreover, while in some member states cohabitation by two persons of the same sex was treated as equivalent to marriage, although not completely, in most it was treated as equivalent to a stable heterosexual relationship outside marriage only with respect to a limited number of rights, or else was not recognised in any particular way.

The European Commission of Human Rights, for its part, considered that despite the modern evolution of attitudes towards homosexuality, stable homosexual relationships did not fall within the scope of the right to respect for family life under article 8 of the Convention of Human Rights, and that national provisions which, for the purpose of protecting the family, accorded more favourable treatment to married persons and persons of opposite sex living together as man and wife than to persons of the same sex in a stable relationship were not contrary to article 14, which prohibited inter alia discrimination on the ground of sex.

In another context, the European Court of Human Rights had interpreted article 12 as applying only to traditional marrige between two persons of opposite biological sex.

It followed that, in the present state of the law within the Community, the two situations were not regarded as equivalent, so that employers were not required to treat them as such.

The third question was whether discrimination based on sexual orientation constituted discrimination based on the sex of the worker.

Ms Grant submitted that it followed from *P v S* (*The Times* May 7, 1996; [1996] ICR 795; [1996] ECR I-2143) that differences in treatment based on sexual orientation were included in the "discrimination based on sex" prohibited by article 119 of the Treaty.

In that case the court was asked whether a dismissal based on the change of sex of a worker was to be regarded as discrimination on the ground of sex.

The court's reasoning leading to the conclusion that there was discrimination was limited to the case of a worker's gender reassignment and did not apply to differences of treatment based on sexual orientation.

Ms Grant referred, however, in particular to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of December 19, 1966 (United Nations Treaty Series, vol 999 p171), in which, in the view of the Human Rights Committee established under article 28 of the Covenant, the term "sex" was to be taken as including sexual orientation. While the Covenant was one of the international instruments relating to the protection of human rights of which the court took account in applying the fundamental principles of Community law, and respect for the fundamental rights which formed an integral part of those general principles was a condition of the legality of Community acts, those rights could not in themselves extend the scope of the Treaty provisions beyond the competences of the Community.

Moreover, the Human Rights Committee's communication, which in any event did not appear to reflect the interpretation so far generally accepted of the concept of discrimination based on sex which appeared in various international instruments concerning the protection of fundamental rights, could not constitute a basis for the court to extend the scope of article 119 of the Treaty.

The scope of that article was to be determined having regard only to its wording and purpose, its place in the scheme of the Treaty and its legal context.

It followed from those considerations that Community law as it stood at present did not cover discrimination based on sexual orientation.

It was however to be observed that the Treaty of Amsterdam signed on October 2, 1997 provided for the insertion into the EC Treaty of an article 6a which, once the Treaty of Amsterdam had entered into force, would allow the Council under certain conditions to take action to eliminate, inter alia, discrimination based on sexual orientation.

On those grounds the Court ruled: The refusal by an employer to allow travel concessions to the person of the same sex with whom a worker had a stable relationship, where such concessions were allowed to a worker's spouse or to the person of the opposite sex with whom a worker had a stable relationship outside marriage, did not constitute discrimination prohibited by article 119 of the EC Treaty or Council Directive 75/117/EEC.

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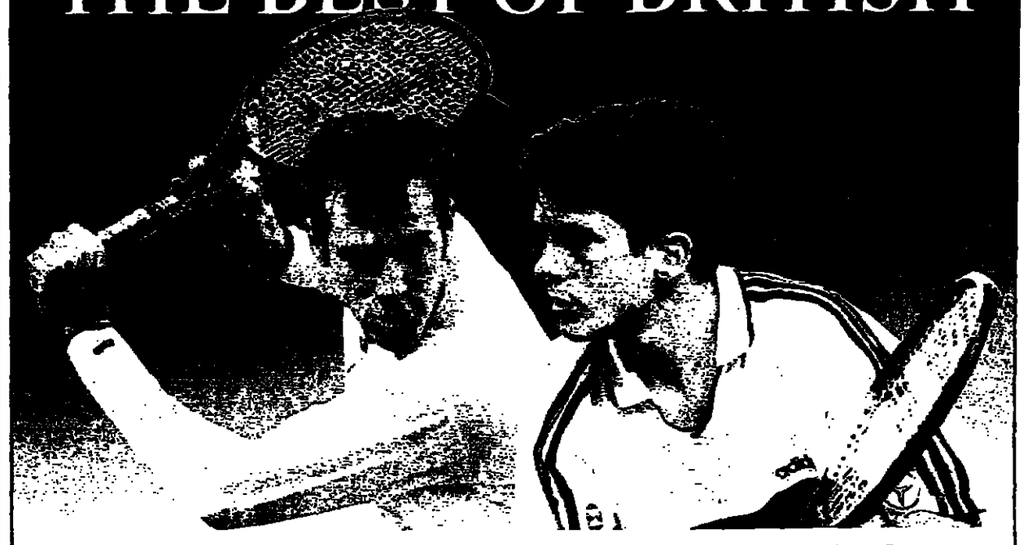

FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 1, 1998

Thirty-two of the world's top tennis players, including Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, above, will be vying for honours — and prize money of more than $815,000 — at The Guardian Direct Cup, the biggest of the UK's four ATP tournaments. It is being held indoors in a 10,000 square metre complex at Battersea Park, south London, and starts today. Readers of *The Times* can receive a FREE ticket when they buy one full-price ticket of the same value for the same morning or evening weekday session. Tickets cost between £14-£26 (plus an administration fee of £1.50). Simply call Ticketmaster and quote *The Times* Offer. Tickets are subject to availability.

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CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,863.00	Allied Domecq	544	+ 14	4.5	13.9
217.80	Bulmer (HP)	412½	- 49	4.5	12.8
17.80	Burn Stewart	35		14.2	10.4
21,053.80	Diageo	605	+ 46	3.0	16.5
112.20	Glenmorangie A	825		2.0	19.7
369.50	Highland Distl	277	- 2	4.0	12.8
172.50	Matthew Clark	195	+ 1	12.8	6.3
5.50	Merrydown W	50½	+ 3	7.7	...
4,612.10	SA Breweries	1565½	+ 16½	2.3	...

BANKS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
17,547.40	ABN-AMRO	1362½	+ 46½	2.5	18.3
18,340.70	Abbey Ntl	1298	+ 114	2.7	21.2
5,456.20	Alliance & Leic	938	+ 46	2.2	22.0
6,458.80	Allied Irish	763½	+ 62	2.4	...
5,813.40	Aus New Z	390	- 5½	5.2	...
36,547.40	Bank America	4481½	- 50		
8,690.40	Bank Scotland	710	+ 70	1.5	19.7
28,668.80	Barclays	1975	- 11	2.5	18.0
5,273.80	Bk of Ireland	1080½	+ 54	1.9	21.7
35,768.70	Citicorp	7809½	+ 18½		
6,571.90	Commerzbk	1628½	+ 3½	2.8	
15,533.10	Dai Ich Kan Y	500	- 25	0.6	
20,976.40	Deutsche Bk	4193½	+ 21½	1.4	
471.83	Espirito Santo	1190½		3.1	...
12,622.40	Fuji Bank Y	442½	- 11½	0.9	
15,387.30	HSBC	1772	+ 182	3.2	14.4
30,309.60	HSBC HK	1682	+ 173	3.4	13.6
23,628.20	Halifax	938	+ 33½	2.0	31.6
709.50	Irish Perm	825	+ 32½	2.0	
50,128.80	Lloyds TSB	929	+ 56	2.3	24.4
12,109.10	Nat Aust Bk	809½	+ 19	4.9	
20,200.80	Nat West	1167	+ 27	3.2	18.4
2,928.20	Northern Rock	659½	+ 16	2.0	24.6
8,451.50	Ryl Bk Scot	980½	+ 43½	2.7	19.2
7,991.50	Stand Chart	764½	+ 91	2.5	13.3
15,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
7,306.40	Westpac	410½	+ ½	3.8	
6,192.40	Woolwich	387	+ 18	3.2	19.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6,524.60	Bass▼	960	- 26	3.6	17.2
19.30	Brit for the Bdr	57½		4.1	17.2
31.40	Burtonwd Brwf	151	+ 1	5.8	13.3
227.20	City Centre Rest	117	- 1	2.7	18.2
2,860.60	Compass Gp	870	+ 26	1.4	30.0
60.70	Eldridge P 'A'	283½	- ½	2.7	14.3
199.90	Enterprise Inns	297½	+ 1	3.2	16.4
64.80	Fullr Sm 'A'	462½	+ 5	2.8	14.9
1,227.60	Greenalls Grp†	415	+ 5	5.0	10.4
440.10	Greene King	727½	- 21½	2.9	14.9
32.70	Grosvenor Inns	230	- 2½	3.5	29.7
53.80	Groupe Chez Ger	287½	+ 1½	1.4	23.2
43.30	Hardy Hansn†	216½		6.6	9.4
56.40	Holt J	2015	- 22½	3.7	11.3
52.50	Inn Business†	68½	+ ½	3.4	
139.70	Marstand	390	- 6½	3.1	12.0
234.40	Marston Thmp	259	+ 3	4.0	9.2
140.10	Morland	431	- 4	3.8	10.9
78.00	Old Eng Pub	300	- 10½	1.0	33.7
2.86	Paramount	24	- 1½		
544.20	PizzaExpress	822	+ 44½	0.5	37.1
31.20	Ramsdens (H)†	335	- 8½	1.9	
296.60	Regent Inns	332½	- 6½	1.2	26.8
109.40	SFI	185½	+ 4½	0.5	32.4
5,333.30	Scot & New	863	+ 25½	3.2	17.3
362.50	Vaux Group	293½	- ½	5.5	10.8
565.40	Wetherspoon JD	389½	- 9	0.9	33.5
4,713.60	Whitbread	960	+ 5	3.2	16.5
337.30	Wolvrhmptn D	497½	- 16	4.7	11.3
264.50	Yates Bros	414½	+ 4½	0.9	39.9
18.60	Young 'A'	642½		3.0	26.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
656.00	Aggregate Inds	54½	+ 1½	4.6	24.3
1,611.30	BPB	313	+ 10½	3.9	14.3
39.60	Baggeridge Brk	96½	- 1	4.5	13.0
12.10	Blockleys	48½		0.4	
2,517.00	Blue Circle	332½	- 6	4.8	13.9
39.40	Breedon PLC	106½		6.1	14.6
29.50	Bt Dredging	168½	+ 1	4.8	12.8
2,779.90	CRH	728½	+ 7½	1.4	18.0
3.03	Cakebread Rby	50½	+ 1	7.7	5.0
64.30	Cape	118½		6.3	9.3
683.00	Caradon	170½	- 1	7.0	8.4
189.90	Caradon pf	105½	+ ½	8.6	
9.76	Chelsea Gp	113½	- 1	3.7	11.3
3.61	Dyson (J&J)	218½		3.3	12.0
16.40	Dyson 'A'	119		8.0	7.1
20.30	Ernstone	44½	- 2		
32.50	Ennst	148½	- ½	7.8	9.1
1.78	Gibbs & Dandy	104½		4.6	11.1
217.40	Graham Grp	155½	- 1	4.7	22.4
73.20	Halstead (J)	245	+ 15	4.9	17.3
1,908.60	Hanson	293	+ 4	5.1	12.0
447.50	Hepworth	182½	- 6	8.5	12.5
19.80	Hewetson	121½	- 1	6.6	8.0
198.20	Heywd Wms	207	+ 5	8.3	8.5
211.90	Ibstock	45½	+ 1	5.5	17.1
35.60	Johnston	332½	- 10	4.5	12.1
24.90	Lilleshall	87½		6.9	11.2
284.00	Marley	84	- 1½	6.8	8.2
155.00	Marshalls†	124	- 1	5.2	15.5
576.20	Meyer Int	361½	+ 20	4.3	13.5
111.30	Norcros	67		3.5	14.7
1,130.70	Pilkington	109	- 1	5.3	13.9
39.50	Polypipe	172		2.4	12.9
46.50	Quarrypoint	23½			
2,179.50	RMC Gp	837	- 24	3.8	11.8
33.60	Ruberoid	82	- 1½	7.4	15.2
755.30	Rugby Group	116½	+ ½	4.0	22.8
20.50	Russell (A)	82½		4.2	12.5
258.60	SIG	219	+ 2½	4.2	11.2
7.10	STP	2½			
50.70	Sharpe & Fisher	225½		3.3	14.7
81.70	Sprung Reo	18	- 1½		
113.80	Streamline Hldgs	183½	- 4	6.0	11.2
904.00	Tarmac	97	- 2	7.1	12.3
9.68	Thorl	88	+ ½	7.4	9.4
525.10	Travis Perkins	501½	+ 24	2.6	17.6
7.71	Tudor	69½		4.8	13.8
365.90	Ulsboroe	286½	+ 6	1.5	30.3
2,924.10	Wolseley	513	+ 17½	2.8	16.5

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
457.70	Albright & Wil	146	+ 7½	5.6	15.2
1,330.40	Allied Colloids	202		2.0	27.3
17.20	Amber Ind	110		6.5	8.7
63.20	Amberley Grp†	97	+ 2	2.2	16.4
17,331.70	BASF DM	2168½	+ 3½	2.6	
4,563.20	BOC	937	- 7	3.6	16.1
568.80	BTP	349	+ 4	4.3	16.7
15,124.20	Bayer DM50	2503½	+ 3½	2.3	
72.30	Brent Chems	107	+ ½	3.9	11.5
559.80	Br Vita	252½	- 14	4.2	13.6
93.70	Brunner Mond	131	+ 2	8.3	7.2
77.80	Camang (W)	266½		4.1	12.8
83.90	City Technology	182½	- 22½	2.6	35.3
1,524.20	Courtaulds	271½	- 8	6.1	11.6
513.20	Croda	378½	+ 7	3.1	15.9
35.80	Doeflex	204½	- 1	4.9	8.8
923.13	Elementis	129½	- ½	8.5	14.5
260.40	Ellis & Everard†	290	- 4½	4.4	12.4
25.55	Euro Colour	56½	- 1½	5.4	10.1
17.20	Gibson	162½	+ 13	5.4	11.0
29.40	Hickson	73½	+ ½		14.1
14,152.63	Hoechst	2406½	+ 3½	2.0	
277.20	Holliday Chem	258	- 5	2.7	18.2
7,926.10	ICI	1082	+ 2	3.0	40.1
349.40	Inspec	280	- 6	4.0	9.9
170.00	Kalon	165½	+ 1½	4.2	24.8
1,222.00	Laporte	675½	+ 10½	4.3	13.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	245		5.9	30.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	49	- 5½	5.6	6.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	31½		4.2	8.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	367½		2.1	
[illegible]	Scapa	215½	+ 3½	3.4	11.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	18½	- ½	7.9	8.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	1674½	+ 26½	0.4	37.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	233		2.5	21.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	622½		5.2	11.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	214	+ 4	5.4	
[illegible]	[illegible]	329½	- 7½	3.6	13.9

CONSTRUCTION

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	AAF Inds	25	+ 1		
[illegible]	Abbey	275	- 25	3.0	20.7
[illegible]	Alfred	332½	- 20	2.3	19.3
[illegible]	Ames	138½	+ 15	3.8	
[illegible]	Amey	457	- 1½	2.7	17.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	857½		1.7	21.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	210	+ ½	1.1	28.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	33	+ 1	5.7	8.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	29	- 1½	5.2	13.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	52½		3.6	12.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	261	- 12½	4.3	13.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	196½	- ½	4.2	12.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	332	+ 3	3.0	12.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	33	+ 1		8.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	70½	+ 1	2.8	3.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	677½	- 18	1.8	11.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	156		5.4	4.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	270	- 18½	3.8	10.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	229	+ ½	5.3	9.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	110½		3.3	14.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	35		3.2	6.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	136	+ 3	4.6	12.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	119½	- 4	4.1	7.5

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
63.80	Acton Co Srvs	197½	+ 4	1.6	19.9
11.60	Adam & Harvey	320		8.8	4.8
8.06	Alexanders	20	+ 5½		
4.60	Ass Br Eng	1¼			68.9

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3,122.00	Br Energy	446	- 4½	3.9	42.9
4,029.50	Energy Group	773½	+ ½	3.4	15.5
4,678.90	National Grid▼	320½	+ 1½	5.3	12.6
7,825.60	National Power	642½	- 3½	5.4	8.7
5,438.60	PowerGen	844½	- 13½	3.9	12.8
2,206.10	Hydro-Electr	563½	- 1½	4.0	12.9
6,099.10	Scottish Power†	516	+ 5½	4.6	12.8
2,701.80	Southern Elect	585	+ 10	4.9	15.1
755.40	Yndlaut	574	+ 16½	4.7	40.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (extract)

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3,035.30	3i	511	+ 8	2.3	29.8
60.60	Aberdeen High Inc	114¼	+ 6½	7.3	17.0
51.60	Aberdn New Dawn	119½	+ ½	1.7	48.5
172.80	Aberforth Smlr†	209	+ 1½	4.2	23.3
15.00	Abertorth Sml Wts	117½	+ ½	...	...
30.50	Abtrust Emerg	61½	- ½	...	...
1,374.70	Alliance	2227½	+ 56	2.8	45.8
749.20	Anglo & O'seas	656	+ 14	2.0	...

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
800	Treas 9¾% 1998	116⅝		3.98	7.35
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.35
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	107⅞	- ⅛	13.78	7.19
935	Treas 15½% 1998	104⅞	- ⅛	14.78	7.04
3,909	Exch 12% 1999	103⅞	- ⅛	11.59	7.01
2,307	Treas 10½% 1999	102⅞	- ⅛	9.30	6.92
3,025	Exch 12¼% 1999	109⅞	- ⅛	11.61	6.87
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅞	- ⅛	10.06	6.79
6,950	Treas 8% 1999	99⅞	- ⅛	8.05	6.65
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅞	- ⅛	9.69	6.67
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝	- ⅛	8.81	6.56
9,600	Treas 8% 2000	103⅞	- ⅛	7.79	6.43
3,536	Treas 9½% 2000	105⅞	- ⅛	8.22	6.62
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	113⅞	- ⅛	11.41	6.67
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	109⅞	- ⅛	9.13	6.43
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	102⅞	- ⅛	6.85	6.31
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
9,000	Treas 7% 2002	102⅞	- ⅛	6.80	6.20
8,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅞	- ⅛	8.59	6.27
6,000	Treas 8% 2003	108⅞	- ⅛	7.39	6.03
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	117⅛	- ⅛	8.58	6.19
1,625	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	113⅞	- ⅛	10.11	6.49
540	Fund 3½% 1999-04	91⅝	- ⅛	3.81	5.01
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	118⅞	- ⅛	8.04	6.13
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	103⅞	- ⅛	6.30	6.06
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	115	- ⅛	7.39	6.02
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	119⅛	- ⅛	7.96	6.11
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130⅞	- ⅛	9.61	6.20
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	109⅞	- ⅛	6.82	6.02
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	111⅛	- ⅛	6.97	6.06
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	106⅞	- ⅛	7.50	6.25
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅞	- ⅛	9.56	6.24
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	117⅞	- ⅛	7.24	6.04
9,009	Treas 7¼% 2007	109⅞	- ⅛	6.63	5.96
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	123⅞	- ⅛	7.30	5.96
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	116⅞	- ⅛	6.86	5.98
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	102⅞	- ⅛	6.11	5.99
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	127⅞	- ⅛	7.07	6.01
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	128⅞	- ⅛	7.01	6.02
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	96⅞	- ⅛	5.71	5.89
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	115⅞	- ⅛	6.69	6.05
LONGS (over 15 years)					
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	119⅞	- ⅛	6.68	6.02
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	122⅞	- ⅛	6.54	5.95
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	131⅞ xd	- ⅛	6.65	5.98
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	126⅞		6.35	5.92
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	56⅞		6.62	...
475	Treas 2½%	30⅞	- ⅛	8.16	...
359	Consols 4%	63⅞	- ⅛	6.29	...
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				5%	3%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	197⅛	- ⅛	2.84	2.97
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2003	194⅞	- ⅛	2.78	3.01
1,150	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	125⅞		2.77	2.88
2,500	Treas IL 2% 2006	208⅞	+ ⅛	2.86	3.02
2,625	Treas IL 2½% 2009	189⅞	+ ⅛	2.90	3.02
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	198⅞	+ ⅛	2.92	3.02
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	164⅞	+ ⅛	2.94	3.02
3,825	Treas IL 2½% 2016	177⅞	+ ⅛	2.94	3.02
3,700	Treas IL 2½% 2020	172⅞	+ ⅛	2.97	3.04
3,850	Treas IL 2½% 2024	145⅞	+ ⅛	2.96	3.00
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	149⅞	+ ⅛	2.93	2.99

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Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

CORPORATE PROFILE: *Unilever*

Turnover: £29.8 billion (1997)
Pre-tax profit: £2.9 billion (1997)
Employees: 306,000
Overview: Anglo-Dutch food, detergents and cosmetics colossus, selling everything from tea bags and washing powder to ice cream. Competes with Nestlé and Procter & Gamble. Increasingly looking to the emerging markets of China, India, eastern Europe and Latin America.

Unilever is co-chaired by **Niall FitzGerald** and **Morris Tabaksblat**, reflecting the Anglo-Dutch group's origins. FitzGerald, a 52-year-old Irishman, joined in 1967, and was in charge of detergents during the infamous "soap wars" clash with Procter & Gamble. He became UK chairman in September 1996, succeeding Sir Michael Perry.

Unilever is overseen by an executive committee, with power delegated to 12 business group presidents. Advisory directors — effectively non-executives — include **Sir Derek Birkin**, former chairman of Rio Tinto, and a non-executive of Carlton Communications, Marck and Watmough. **Sir Brian Hayes**, one-time Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and a director of Guardian Royal Exchange. **Lord Wright of Richmond**, former head of the diplomatic service, is a director of BP, De La Rue and BAA. **Karl Otto Pöhl**, former president of the Bundesbank, joined in 1992. Other advisory directors include **Bertrand Collomb**, chairman and chief executive of Lafarge Group and a director of Elf Aquitaine; **Oscar Fanjul**, honorary chairman of Repsol and a former top Spanish civil servant; **Frits Fentener van Vlissingen**, a member of the advisory boards of Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, ABN Amro Bank and Akzo Nobel; **James W. Kinnear**, past president of Texaco, and a director of Corning and Paine Webber; and **Onno Ruding**, former Finance Minister in The Netherlands.

Viscount Leverhulme, 82, grandson of William Lever, founder of Lever Brothers, was appointed honorary advisory director for life when he retired as an advisory director in 1985.

Stop your typical British shopper at the door of *Sainsbury or Safeway*, empty the shopping bags on the floor, and many of the products that come tumbling out will be made by Unilever. Flora margarine, Persil washing powder, PG Tips tea bags, Domestos cleaning fluid, Organics shampoo, Birds Eye frozen foods, Wall's ice cream — the list, to the uninitiated, is truly astonishing. When you get this big, a company could be forgiven for looking a little smug.

But smug is just what Unilever can no longer afford to be. Written off in the 1970s and 1980s as a bureaucracy enmeshed monster, ruled by committees and driven by inertia, the Unilever of the 1990s is evolving into a very different beast. Aggressive competition from the likes of Procter & Gamble and Nestlé, combined with flat sales in Western Europe, long Unilever's most important market, has prompted a radical rethink in the way the company conducts its affairs.

Niall FitzGerald, who succeeded Sir Michael Perry as UK co-chairman in September 1996, is presiding over a series of ground-breaking reforms, pushing products and countries seen as offering the best potential for profitable growth. Low priority and underperforming sectors must either improve or face being sold.

Management has been reorganised into 12 business groups — prompting comparisons with a flotilla of ships steaming under central orders. Resonating through it all is the mantra of shareholder value, which FitzGerald and his Dutch counterpart, Morris Tabaksblat, have embraced with near fanatical zeal.

But back to our shopping bag. Half of Unilever's business involves foods, driven by Van den Bergh Foods, whose brands range from Flora and I Can't Believe It's Not Butter! to tea products such as PG Tips, Brooke Bond and Lipton Yellow Label. Other products include Batchelors soup, Colman's mustard, Peperami meat snacks, Oxo cubes and Ragú pasta sauce.

Birds Eye Wall's embraces ice cream and frozen foods, including burgers and fish fingers. The Wall's ice cream portfolio includes Cornetto, Solero and Magnum — the latter sold in 54 countries and generating £600 million in annual sales.

Lever Brothers makes Persil, Surf and Radion washing powder and Comfort fabric conditioner. Another washing powder brand, "cold water" Omo, is as much a part of life in South Africa's black townships as *mielies* (corn) and cooking oil. Other Lever Brothers products include Domestos and Jif cleaning fluid, and Sunlight and Lifebuoy soap. Unilever owns Elizabeth Arden and Calvin Klein, maker of Obsession and Eternity. Elida Fabergé makes Mentadent P toothpaste, Pond's face cream, and Pears and Lux soap. Shampoos include Organics, Timotei Timotei and Salon Selectives.

But there is more to Unilever than a collection of recognisable brands. Strip away the surface tinsel, and one is left with a core of hard-bitten marketing, where margarine is "yellow fats" and that Domestos bottle is just another fast-moving consumer good. Dig deeper still, and the whole thing begins to take on decidedly militaristic overtones, with managers talking in terms of how many consumers they can "capture" in a target area.

Unilever was recently rapped over the knuckles for its aggressive tactics in the Irish Republic. Its practice of renting refrigerator units free of charge to shopkeepers who agreed to stock Wall's ice cream was deemed anti-competitive.

Military-style plotting extends across all fronts — and not always to Unilever's advantage. Remember the "rotting underpants" saga that followed the launch of Persil Power with its infamous manganese "accelerator"? Procter & Gamble was swift to circulate photographs of tattered undies — supposedly the result of one wash too many with Persil Power. Unilever later modified the formula, but at a lasting cost to its sales and reputation.

It is focusing on developing markets in Asia, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe, which ten years ago provided less than £3 billion in sales — about 16 per cent of turnover. Today sales are in excess of £9 billion, or 28 per cent of turnover. Unilever wants the figure to hit 50 per cent within ten years.

Changes have been prompted by difficulties in the mature markets of Western Europe, where slow economic growth and high unemployment have affected sales. Since the early 1990s, 59 out of 189 European factories have been closed, and 18,000 employees have lost their jobs. The restructuring has cost Unilever about £1 billion, taken in two big chunks, in 1990 and 1993.

John West Foods was sold to Heinz last year as part of a ruthless "cleaning up" exercise. Speciality chemicals, including smells, tastes and starches, was sold to Imperial Chemical Industries for £4.9 billion in May 1997. H Leverton, which held the Caterpillar tractor franchise in the UK, was sold to Finning of Canada in October.

The money is being used to buy market share in target areas, as seen last October when Unilever bought Kebon, Brazil's largest ice cream maker, from Philip Morris for $930 million (£574 million). The deal consolidated Unilever's place as the world's largest ice cream manufacturer.

Unilever was born in 1929 when Margarine Unie of The Netherlands merged with Lever Brothers, but the company's roots are embedded in Victorian Britain. William Hesketh Lever, later Lord Leverhulme, founded Lever Brothers in 1885 after working in his father's wholesale grocery. He introduced Sunlight, the world's first packaged, branded laundry soap, and Port Sunlight in Merseyside remains the focus of a thriving detergent plant and research laboratory.

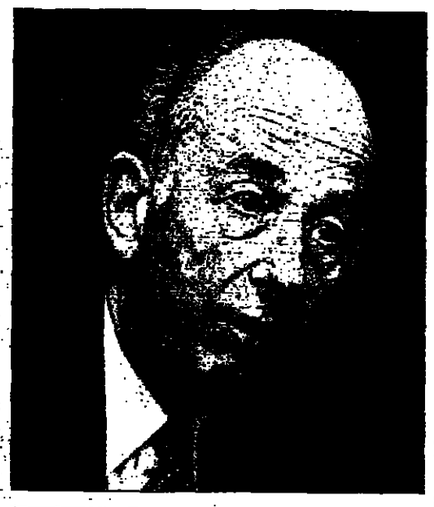
After 1917, Lever moved into the food trade. In The Netherlands, fierce competition between Jurgens, maker of Stork margarine, and Van den Bergh, maker of Blue Band, led to a merger in 1927. The merged company, Margarine Unie, competed with Lever Brothers for supplies of oils and fats, which they put to different uses. The case for a merger became compelling. So Unilever came into being.

The paternalistic approach of the old Lever Brothers, and its company town, Port Sunlight, has evolved gradually but Integrity Works, the consultancy, concludes that the company takes seriously the need for high ethical standards. But when it revised its code of business principles last month, it did not provide the update that IW would have liked to see.

Crisp Consulting says the total remuneration of Morris Tabaksblat, the highest-paid executive, was £2.69 million in 1996. It reckons this should have been £6.2 million, making him 55 per cent underpaid, although it said the company in effect has two chairmen.

Few doubt FitzGerald's sincerity in seeking to slim Unilever down to focus on what it does best — selling instantly recognisable consumer brands. The days when Unilever had interests in tractors, fish-farming, packaging, adhesives and oleochemicals are long gone. The battle cry is "focus".

JON ASHWORTH



UNILEVER HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Morris Tabaksblat, top left, co-chairman of Unilever, a past advertisement for its long-established Sunlight soap, top centre, and Niall FitzGerald, co-chairman, top right, who presides over a wide portfolio of brands including, from left, Flora spread, Solero ice lollies, Birds Eye peas and PG Tips tea

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"In mid-1995 there was a deep distrust at the highest levels inside Unilever. Since then, the company has embraced value-based management and moved to a much more direct and effective organisational structure, resulting in a much-improved delivery of forecasts, budgets, and a more sharply focused action-oriented management. We ain't seen anything yet."
David Lang, food manufacturing analyst, Henderson Crosthwaite

"This is a vital time in the company's history. It is a company that has under-delivered over the last few years, and something radical was required. Unilever is fighting in some very competitive markets with some very able competitors. The pace is pretty fast now." *John Elston, analyst, Panmure Gordon*

"We anticipate spending of £2 billion to £2.2 billion a year on 'greenfield' acquisitions in the emerging markets, and small-to-medium add-on acquisitions in the more mature markets."
Martin Dolan, analyst, Merrill Lynch

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	7/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	9/10
Financial record	6/10
Share performance	*6/10*
Attitude to employees	6/10
Strength of brand	10/10
Innovation	5/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	6/10
Total	69/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by *Integrity Works*. The Fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by *Crisp Consulting*

Pollsters exchange opinions in talks aimed at merger

BY JOHN OAKES

TWO of the UK's leading opinion poll companies are set to merge to create a group 50 per cent owned by United News & Media, the publishing company headed by Lord Hollick.

The two household names — National Opinion Poll (NOP) and MORI — are discussing merger plans and hope to announce a new 3,000-strong joint interview fieldforce in the next few months, they confirmed at the weekend.

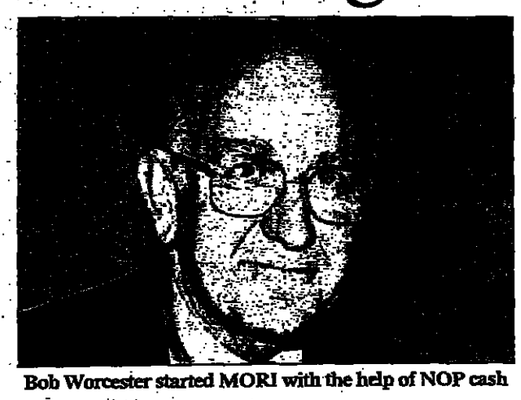
The firms say that the idea of merging has arisen in the past year, partly from their co-operation in joint field work for the Department of Environment's English House Condition Survey, which involved more than 15,000 face-to-face interviews.

Brian Grosschalk, MORI's managing director, said that the merger would strengthen the two firms' ability to compete for large-scale, high-speed political opinion polls.

He said: "A lot of large government surveys will be commissioned in the future, gauging public reactions to Welfare to Work, education, law and order and a whole range of policies. Both NOP and MORI are strong in that area, and the merger will mean we are in an even stronger position to tender for large-scale projects.

"Up to now, when wide-ranging research was needed, agencies formed consortia to assemble sufficient interviewers to do the work on time. This created problems in co-ordinating and processing data between different companies. But Field and Tab, as it will be called, will help to overcome these problems by providing sufficient numbers of qualified interviewers to undertake the biggest and most complicated assignments within the same fieldwork agency. And if both firms get big jobs at the same time, we shall still be able to cope."

The merger will create a new company, financed 50-50 by privately-owned MORI and the United News-owned NOP. Bob Worcester is MORI's largest shareholder.



Bob Worcester started MORI with the help of NOP cash

Euro index targets trade in the City

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THREE continental stock exchanges will this week launch a European index as part of their drive to wrench business away from London after economic and monetary union.

Paris, Zurich and Frankfurt have joined forces against a UK dominance that is underlined by the new index. This shows that UK firms, led by Glaxo Wellcome, account for a quarter of Europe's blue chip stock market capitalisation, far more than any other country.

The three European markets believe they will have a powerful weapon in the new Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50, which lists blue chip firms in the likely euro zone, and the Dow Jones Stoxx 50, which includes EU and Swiss firms.

Analysts say that the indexes could revolutionise trading on the Continent, pushing fund managers towards pan-European investment policies and punishing groups that fail to make it in the top 50.

France's blue chip CAC 40 index and Germany's DAX 30 are likely to wither as attention turns to the new Dow Jones lists, to be launched on Thursday. The new lists' promoters hope that, in time, the London market will also wither.

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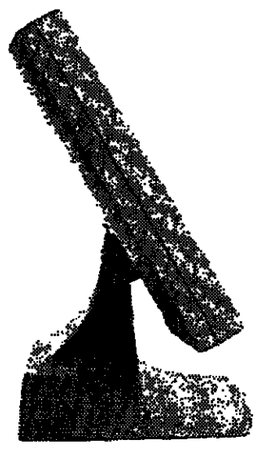

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Answers from page 38

BINGHI
(b) Oz slang for an Aboriginal. The Aboriginal word. Recorded earlier in the general sense of "brother". For example, R. Dawson, *The Present State of Australia*, 1931: "I was received by them with the greatest cordiality, and greeted by the term of binghi or brother."

ETOURDI
(b) Thoughtless, irresponsible, flighty. Also as a noun, a thoughtless, irresponsible person. The French word. "What a little étourdie! How lacking in the reserves, the natural instincts and shrinkings of the well-bred English girl!"

DAGGETT
(a) A dark tar obtained by the distillation of the bark of the European white birch, and used in the preparation of Russia leather, and formerly as a local application for diseases of the skin. From the Russian *dëgot* tar: "Birch bark, by destructive distillation, yields an empyreumatic oil, known as Oil of Birch Tar, Daggett, etc."

FOURREAU
(c) A tight-fitting dress; an underslip as part of a dress. The French word, literally a sheath or scabbard. "In such a sheath dress (called fourreau), which fitted the hips so tightly that a lady could scarcely move."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rg7! (threatening both 2 Rg8+ and 2 Nf7 mate) 1 ... gxh5 2 Reg3 and there is no defence to the dual threats of 3 Rg8+ and 3 Nf7 mate.

Next drops tea to focus on t-shirts

BY FRASER NELSON

NEXT, Britain's largest fashion retailer, is to shut all of its 13 in-store cafés to make way for the launch of its spring/summer clothes collection.

The cafés, seen by many shoppers as the cream of the in-store set, will disappear by the end of April, releasing about 12,000 sq ft for sales.

The move is intended to add badly needed retail space as Next fights in an exceptionally competitive market in which high-street selling space is at a premium. A Next spokesman said: "We make more money out of selling clothes than we do by selling cups of tea."

Next, one of the strongest retailers last Christmas, has the highest sales per square foot of any clothing retailer, beating even Marks & Spencer. By scrapping the cafés, it could generate an extra £7 million in annual sales.

However, its retreat from the £1 billion in-store catering market runs against industry trends. French Connection, which competes with Next in plain fashion wear, is adding a café to its new store in Regent Street, Central London, and bookstores are also joining forces with café chains.

Next is seen as one the few retailers whose name has enough kudos to run "destination" cafés — which shoppers visit even when not necessarily out to buy clothes. It hopes to find jobs for its 100 full-time café staff.

City expects HSBC to keep Asian tigers tame

COMPANIES — MICHAEL CLARK

HSBC HOLDINGS: If any of the British banks have suffered from the economic turmoil in South-East Asia, then it has to be HSBC. The market has already factored much of its exposure to the region into the share price, which has come down from a peak of £23.47 in August to about £17.

Still, the City remains fairly bullish about HSBC's prospects, with at least one broker forecasting a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £5.15 billion. While provisions against poor loans in Asia are expected to be low, at about £80 million, they could rise in later years as the effect of the crisis feeds through to the bottom line. Earnings per share are estimated to rise 10 per cent to about 130p, while the net dividend could be 50p.

NATWEST: Investors should watch out for a host of exceptional items when the smallest of the Big Four banks reports tomorrow, not least the £300 million cost of exiting the equities markets. Expect pre-tax profits to remain flat, at about £1.1 billion, if not to fall slightly. The net dividend will be 32p, give or take a penny, while the City expects a minimum 50 per cent rise in earnings per share to at least 35p, with some forecasts topping 40p. The bank may also announce plans to return some of its excess capital in the light of the equities sale.

STANDARD CHARTERED: The bank's share price has almost halved since last summer, reflecting a considerable exposure to South-East Asia and uncertainty about future earnings. Pre-tax profit is expected to slip by a couple of per cent or so to about £850 million, with a corresponding knock-on effect for earnings per share.

ABBEY NATIONAL: After a nasty dip in its share of the mortgage market during 1996, the bank appears to be back on track and will have benefited from the series of interest rate rises in the second half of last year. A rise of about 20 per cent in pre-tax profit to £1.4 billion could be on the cards.

The arrival of Ian Harley as chief executive has been warmly welcomed by the City, which is now convinced that Abbey wants to retain its independence. Earnings will rise by a similar margin to profits, and the net dividend is forecast at just over 30p, a 17 per cent increase on last year.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER: The first set of full-year figures since it converted is expected to show a continued drive to cut costs and strong growth in personal banking. However, look out for large-scale mortgage redemptions and a net outflow of savings.

Profit forecasts vary considerably, with the more bullish analysts predicting a 30 per cent jump in the pre-tax figure. Earnings could be as high as 46p and the net dividend about 19p. There could also be some news about a share buyback or special dividend, given the bank's huge cash surplus.

PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION: A modest improvement in profits is forecast when full-year results are published on Wednesday. At the pre-tax level they are expected to come in at £910 million, compared with £873 million for 1996, while operating earnings per share will have fallen 4 per cent to 32.9p.

Currency factors and dilution caused by the sale of M&G will have held back growth. Domestic profits are likely to be 15 per cent higher, with life profits 8 per cent ahead. There should also be a healthy decrease in banking losses from £54 million to £16 million, which will go some way to offsetting any deterioration in general insurance.

The payout is likely to mirror the 10 per cent increase recorded at the halfway stage, with 19.1p forecast.

COMMERCIAL UNION: The strong pound and declining underwriting performance will leave a sizable dent in full-year results for the second year running. Pre-tax profits on Wednesday are expected to show a drop from £444 million in 1996 to between £415 million and £425 million this time round. Earnings per share are set to fall from 43p to 34.7p. The payout is expected to grow 7 per cent to 32.5p.

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE: An even bigger deterioration in profitability is expected when this composite unveils final results on the same day. NatWest Markets, the broker, is forecasting a drop in pre-tax profit from £281 million to £185 million, with earnings down more than half to 9.3p.

Headline investment income is likely to be down 4 per cent, hit by a combination of currency factors and lower cash flow as the claims cycle alters. Unlike CU, life profits will be flat, reflecting sluggish new business growth. Despite this dull performance NatWest is forecasting a 15 per cent rise in the dividend to 11.5p.

LASMO: The dramatic decline in the oil price will inevitably take its toll of the oil exploration group when final results are unveiled on Thursday. Net income is predicted to fall from £47 million to £43 million with earnings static at 3.2p. Lasmo has had to contend with a 12 per cent drop in the price of oil during a period when currency movements have conspired against European oil explorers in general. But the group has played to its strength, namely in exploration, with five big discoveries in Algeria, Libya and Pakistan. The payout should grow from 2p to 2.5p net.

RIO TINTO: Full-year figures on Thursday should produce a useful increase in net income, from £701 million to between £775 million and £790 million. Earnings should be up about 12 per cent to 56.1p. But there are problems facing the group, with the share price currently overshadowed by the effects of a falling copper price and the fallout from the Asian crisis. The dividend should go up from 27p to 28p.

John Bond, HSBC chief executive, is expected to keep Asian provisions to £80 million

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

FREE SCREENPLAY
GOOD WILL HUNTING

To coincide with the release of the film *Good Will Hunting* on March 6, *The Times* is offering readers an exclusive opportunity to obtain a free copy of the screenplay. This astounding film has been nominated for nine Academy Awards including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Original Screenplay. It is already the winner of The Golden Globe Award for Best Original Screenplay for young writers and stars Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.

The Times and Faber and Faber have arranged for you to receive an exclusive special edition paperback of the award-winning screenplay. Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and send three second-class stamps for postage to: *The Times/Good Will Hunting* Screenplay Offer, BVCD, 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6EE. Readers in the Republic of Ireland should send a strong, self-addressed, C5 envelope with 72p worth of stamps attached, to: *The Times/Good Will Hunting* Screenplay Offer, PO Box 5484, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2. The closing date is March 14, 1998.

Lifelong friends Matt Damon and Ben Affleck have written a screenplay that is funny, ironic and profoundly moving. It tells the story of an angry 20-year-old brought up in a tough neighbourhood who can solve mathematical problems instantly and summon obscure historical references from a photographic memory. His only hope, to escape from a lifestyle of menial jobs, stints at the local bar and run-ins with the law, is a psychologist, played in the film by Robin Williams, who has sympathy for his emotional struggles and a keen understanding of what it is like to fight your way through life.

ff faber and faber

THE TIMES FREE SCREENPLAY TOKEN

MIRAMAX

CHANGING TIMES

TODAY

Interims: Adwest Automotive, Community Hospitals Group, Gyrus Group, Regent Inns. **Finals:** Brewin Dolphin Holdings, Conister Trust, Fidelity European, Hibernian Group, HSBC, Mayflower, Ultra Electronics Holdings. **Economic statistics:** UK provisional GDP (Q4), US Treasury budget statement.

TOMORROW

Interims: Alumasc Group, Pacific Horizon Investment Trust, Pifco Holdings, William Sinclair Holdings. **Finals:** Admiral, Arriva, Capita Group, Dixon Motors, Easynet Group, NatWest Bank, Serco Group. **Economic statistics:** RICS January housing market survey, US January consumer price inflation.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Logica, Verity Group. **Finals:** BG, BWD Securities, Commercial Union, Dornick Hunter, Guardian Royal Exchange, Herald Investment Trust, Parity, Prudential, Shires Smaller Companies, Vardon, Wickes.

THURSDAY

Interims: Brunel Holdings, Eidos (Q3), Gartmore Shared Income, McBride, A & J Mucklow Group, Quayle Munro Holdings, Scottish Investment Trust. **Finals:** Abbey National, Ashanti Goldfields (Q4), Beta Global Emerging, TF & JH Braime, Calderburn, Centrica, T. Clarke, Crestacare, Estates & General, Green Property Company, KBC Advanced, Lasmo, Liberty International Holdings, Lionheart, London Bridge Software, Morgan Sindall, Norish, Rio Tinto, Smith & Nephew, Wembley. **Economic statistics:** December global trade figures, January non-EU trade figures, February CBI industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: Go-Ahead Group. **Finals:** Antonov, Baillie Gifford Shin, Morgan Grenfell Latin American. **Economic statistics:** Nationwide February house price survey.

The Sunday Times: Buy Cookson, Mayflower, Superscape VR, Cadbury Schweppes, Vanguard Medica, Haden Maclellan; Hold Eidos; Sell Sinclair Montrose. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy Abbott Mead Vickers, Stentor, RPS, Torex, James Halstead; Sell Northern Rock, Thorn; Hold Fitness First. *Independent On Sunday:* Buy Deltron Electronics; Sell BICC, Thorntons. *Mail On Sunday:* Buy Stadium Group, Severn Trent, Jasmin.

THE MARKET will today quickly turn its mind from the weekend G7 summit to Alan Greenspan's latest appearance before the US Congress. The chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who was absent from the G7 because of a heavy cold, is expected to be fit to give his semi-annual Humphrey-Hawkins testimony on Tuesday and Wednesday. Economists do not expect him to diverge too greatly from his recent comments on the state of the US economy and the threat from the Asian economic crisis, but will want to be reassured that US rates remain on hold for the time being.

The Iraq crisis is likely to be the other main market mover this week. The peace mission at the end of last week has been priced in as evidence that the problems are close to resolution. The failure of diplomatic efforts and the onset of military action would send oil prices shooting higher and spark a flight to the dollar.

There is little economic data in the UK next week, but with the interest rate outlook still finely balanced, every nuance in figures will come under close scrutiny. On Monday, the revised fourth-quarter GDP figures will provide a more detailed snapshot of the strength of the economy. Economists will be particularly concerned with the data detailing the strength of the consumer sector and how quickly the net trade position is deteriorating.

The monthly trade figures on Thursday are expected to confirm the widening trend. The consensus is that the global trade gap will widen to about £1.5 billion in December. Also on Thursday, the Confederation of British Industry quarterly industrial trends survey will be scanned for evidence of the health of manufacturing sector during the first quarter of this year.

In the US, the markets will have some important data, as well as Mr Greenspan's words, to mull over. The consumer price inflation figures for January, published on Tuesday, are expected to show prices remaining subdued, with the CPI possibly even registering a slight monthly fall. Durable goods data for January, published on Thursday, could show some early signs of the Asian crisis hitting purchases after a strong performance at the end of last year. Fourth-quarter GDP figures on Friday may show some downward revisions.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.6361 (-0.0004)
German mark
2.9610 (-0.0038)
Exchange index
104.9 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3501.6 (+55.4)
FTSE 100
5751.6 (+169.3)
New York Dow Jones
8413.94 (+43.84)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16756.24 (-34.77)

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.53	2.35
Austria Sch	21.84	20.26
Belgium Fr	64.60	59.64
Canada $	2.447	2.259
Cyprus Cypß	0.918	0.844
Denmark Kr	11.93	11.04
Finland Mrk	9.56	8.82
France Fr	10.44	9.68
Germany Dm	3.14	2.80
Greece Dr	497	458
Hong Kong $	13.51	12.31
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.25	1.16
Israel Snk	6.29	5.84
Italy Lira	3112	2875
Japan Yen	223.43	205.90
Malta	0.883	0.824
Netherlds Gld	3.543	3.248
New Zealand $	2.97	2.73
Norway Kr	13.01	12.07
Portugal Esc	317.09	295.00
S Africa Rd	8.80	7.85
Spain Pta	263.29	244.59
Sweden Kr	14.02	12.92
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.34
Turkey Lira	379975	357097
USA $	1.743	1.600

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Siemens power contract

Siemens of Germany has won a contract worth up to £180 million to build a power plant for Hydro-Electric in Scotland.

Construction of the combined-cycle plant at Peterhead, Grampian, will begin in late spring, with the plant entering service in late 2000. Hydro-Electric is moving away from using oil to generate power at Peterhead to a combination of steam and gas, Siemens said.

It noted that the power station's efficiency would be increased from about 38 per cent to about 55 per cent.

Six groups had tendered for the contract.

Pennant in £8m flotation

Pennant International Group, which produces computer training systems for the defence industry, is to float on AIM on March 12, in a move expected to value the company at about £8 million.

Joe Thompson, chief executive, said the AIM listing — which will provide about £2 million in investment funds — would help the company to accelerate its product development programme and to look for acquisitions.

The company's product range includes flight and control room simulators and "emulators" which allow engineers to train without using real hardware. The company is especially keen to win a slice of the £250 million Eurofighter training market.

IST stake acquired

Guinness Flight Venture Capital is to take a 45 per cent stake in Integrated Solutions Technology (IST), the video compression company, in a deal worth £500,000. IST, founded in 1991, distributes and configures video compression products.

IST's clients include Pearson, BT, Cable & Wireless and the BBC. Guinness Flight will shortly be renamed ProVen Private Equity after a management buyout.

Lonrho near buyback as JCI secures key support

By Jason Nissé

SAFLIFE, one of South Africa's largest financial institutions, is backing a complex deal that will allow Lonrho to buy back a 26.6 per cent stake from JCI, the mining group.

In the deal, negotiated by Nick Morrell, Lonrho's chief executive, the London group is expected to pay up to £228 million for the stake.

The shares are currently held by Anglo-American, the conglomerate, but Anglo is committed to selling the stake to JCI, the mining group, in a swap with two JCI gold mines.

JCI will then sell the stake back to Lonrho at a price expected to be between 105p and 110p a share — a total cost of between £218 million and £228 million. Lonrho shares closed at 92½p on Friday. The stake was sold to Anglo by two former chief executives of Lonrho, Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock.

As part of the deal, Duiker, a South African coal company in which Lonrho has a 61 per cent stake, will buy JCI's Tavistock coal interests for 1.4 billion rand (about £175 million). This is about 400 million rand less than JCI had hoped to receive.

There has been investor unrest in Johannesburg about JCI's deal with Lonrho, which is part of a wider break up of JCI, a 100-year-old company.

However, *The Times* has learnt that the deal has been backed by Saflife, which is JCI's largest shareholder and a former backer of Mzi Khumalo, who resigned last month as JCI chairman.

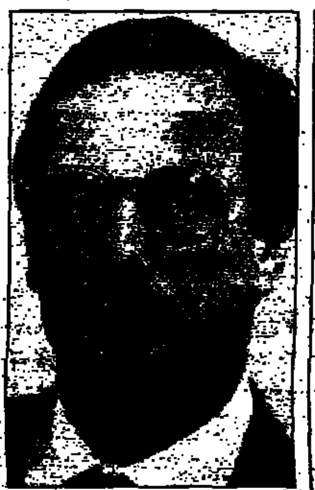
Saflife's support is crucial for the two deals with Lonrho to go through. JCI's board — which has been riddled with dissent and recriminations — needs to swing institutional support behind it to complete the controversial break-up of the company.

Final papers are being drawn up and Lonrho should be able to make an announcement in time for the deal to be voted upon at the annual meeting on March 26.

Lonrho will underwrite a share issue for Duiker to pay for Tavistock and will pay for the buyback by raising debt. These borrowings should be paid off by the summer when Lonrho sells its Princess Hotel chain, which is currently being auctioned.

Lonrho called off talks to sell Princess to Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi investor, for $500 million (£305 million) before Chistmas. It now hopes to raise up to $100 million more from the sale.

The group is also well advanced in its plans to float Lonrho Africa, its trading business, on the stock market in April.



Morrell: negotiated deal

Stuart Wallis, left, and David Gilbertson of LLP, which is seeking a spring listing

LLP steers a course for market

By Jason Nissé

LLP GROUP, the financial publishers whose main title is *Lloyd's List*, the daily newspaper, is to float on the stock market this spring with a valuation expected to exceed £120 million.

The flotation of LLP — backed by NatWest Markets and Cazenove — will raise money to cut the company's debts and help it to develop in the area of electronic information delivery. The group grew out of *Lloyd's List*, which was first published in 1734, and has developed into a specialist in areas such as insurance, shipping and energy. The group is currently developing its database activities wth on-line services and CD-Roms. Last year the group made a profit before interest and tax of £10.4 million, on a turnover of £48.4 million.

LLP was bought out from Lloyd's of London by a team led by its management in December 1995 for £82.5 million. The management led by David Gilbertson, chief executive, and Stuart Wallis, the former Fisons chief who is chairman, hold 25 per cent of the shares, while three venture capital groups are also big shareholders — 3i with 30 per cent, NatWest Ventures with 20 per cent and Mercury Asset Management with 10 per cent.

Gas users may receive slice of BG land profits

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BG, the group demerged from British Gas that runs the Transco pipeline network, is likely to be forced to share profits from property sales with customers at the next pricing review. If profits are at the higher end of the regulator's expectations, gas customers may have their bills cut by an extra £14.

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, has begun a dossier on property sales from BG's big portfolio, which will be highlighted when the next pricing review begins. She has thrown the spotlight on the company's property deals after it told a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry that sales were unlikely to deliver a profit, because of clean-up costs, and then told *The Times* several months later that it could realise £800 million from disposals. Cleaning costs of the properties — often prime inner-city sites — may come out of that figure, but have been estimated at only £350 million. BG has said that the resurgent property market triggered the revised figure.

In a series of warnings, the regulator has told BG that she is unhappy with the mixed signals over the value of its property.

Ofgas will today say that it will not try to dismantle the present price formula — the result of a hard-fought battle between the company and the regulator — but will store up evidence on property sales for the next review. It could also use the dossier when it takes further action in breaking more operations off Transco. The pipeline network faces further assaults on parts of its monopoly, such as storage.

The differing price forecasts were raised in the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee's inquiry into energy last month.

The property sales could yield even more than BG's revised projections because of the Government's planned initiative to encourage development of "brownfield" sites. These former developed sites in urban locations are just the type of property of which BG has a wealth.

A spokesman for BG, which is to report its full-year results on Wednesday, said: "There is no windfall even though the market is more buoyant than originally forecast."

BG had planned to sell property worth £140 million in the present financial year. The majority of BG property is classified as contaminated, but that category applies to most land that has had industrial use.

Spottiswoode: property file

Spanish in Peregrine deal

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

BANCO Santander of Spain will announce within the next few days that it is buying the equities business of Peregrine Investment Holdings, the Hong Kong investment bank that collapsed in January.

Carlos Infesta, managing director of Banco Santander's UK investment operation, said that he was "99.5 per cent" sure that the bank would buy Peregrine's London, New York and Singapore equities operations.

Mr Infesta said that most of the 105 staff in the London equities division of Peregrine would keep their jobs after the business is absorbed in Banco Santander's own equities operations, which are focused on Latin American markets.

The UK staff will ultimately report to Jose Antonio Diaz, head of global equities, while Andrew Jamieson, a Peregrine executive in Singapore, will become head of Asian equities. Most of the staff in New York will be absorbed within Banco Santander's existing operation in the US.

It is understood that Banco Santander beat off strong competition from Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) to win the deal, although Señor Infesta declined to confirm this. BNP has already agreed to buy Peregrine's brokerage business in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

Señor Infesta declined to say what Santander was paying for the three equities operations.

Waterstone's in Dillons link

By Alasdair Murray

WH SMITH is poised to sell its Waterstone's book chain for about £300 million to a joint venture between EMI and Advent International, a venture capital company.

The deal, which is expected to be announced later this week, will result in the creation of a new retailing group including Waterstone's and the EMI-owned Dillons bookstores and HMV record shops.

The company will be chaired by Tim Waterstone, founder of the book chain. Mr Waterstone had a takeover bid for the whole of WH Smith rebuffed by the company last autumn, but succeeded in forcing WH Smith into a strategic U-turn. WH Smith has also put its Virgin/Our Price music chain and The Wall, its US music business, up for sale in order to concentrate on its core 400 stores.

The new retailing group will also incorporate Daisy and Tom, the children's clothing and toy store recently established by Mr Waterstone.

EMI is believed to be keen to take the group public eventually. HMV has about 330 outlets, and Waterstone's has 120 stores.

Advent was also in the running to buy United Provincial Newspapers from United News & Media, but pulled out because the bidding was too high. Candover, another venture capital house, is now expected to win the fight.

Thomson near to float

THOMSON Travel Group, the UK's largest holiday company, is close to finalising plans for a £1.3 billion flotation on the Stock Exchange in May.

It is understood that the company, currently owned by The Thomson Organisation, the Canadian publisher, intends to issue a prospectus in the next six weeks.

Thomson Travel, which consists of the Britannia Airways charter airline and the Lunn Poly chain of travel agencies, is expected to be one of this year's largest flotations.

1997/98 High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	12.70	AFA Systems	105½	...	...	...
153½	121½	17.40	AMCO Corp	121½	– 6	6.7	6.2
422½	170	55.70	AND Int Pub	235	+ 29	...	...
370	84½	20.30	Abacus Recruit	312½	– 5	0.6	21.4
240	99½	59.00	Access Plus	232	...	2.8	26.5
69¼	5¾	3.30	Active Imaging	8	...	...	...
265	200	38.70	A de Gordy	260	...	3.5	19.2
11¼	6	7.48	African Gold	7¼	...	...	40.8
45½	31¼	16.50	Albemarle & Bd	43½	– 1¼	1.4	14.3
52½	29	6.14	Alkyma	35½	...	...	...
111½	73½	2.40	Anglo-Welsh	77½	...	1.6	...
610	455	56.70	Ann St Brewery	585	+ 5	4.6	10.5
1240	1015	7.82	Ann St Cv Pf	1185	...	6.8	...
129½	65½	67.00	Antonov	87½	+ 1	...	...
148½	99½	18.10	Antech	105½	– 2	...	...
105	90	4.88	Aran Resources	90	...	5.8	...
100½	50	7.14	Archer Dedicated	70	– 20	1.4	...
267½	130	52.00	Ask Central	250	+ 2½	0.2	38.7
69½	62½	1.22	Athelney Trust	67½	...	1.9	58.4
32	9½	14.90	Atlantic Caspian	21¼	– 2½	...	...
103½	58½	50.50	Avalon Oil	66½	...	...	...
152½	120½	47.40	BATM Adv Comms	152½	+ 12	2.0	...
201½	148½	33.70	BCO Technologies	188½	– 2½	...	...
240	8½	3.42	BKG Res	8½	...	...	...
3¾	3¼	2.38	Balaxy Services	3¼	...	...	76.3
61½	25	11.30	Barbican Health	58½	– 1	...	...
12½	6½	24.30	Barradord	9	...	...	...
3¼	1¾	3.30	Beachcroft	1¾	...	3.6	6.7
4½	1	4.38	Beaufort	2¼	+ ¾	3.8	22.7
45½	36½	6.04	Bickerton	39½	...	...	23.7
105	60	1.52	Billam	95	...	7.0	28.0
76½	41½	4.63	Bilston Bitmex	52	+ ½	3.6	26.9
2¼	1	5.05	Birchin Intl	1¼	...	...	...
1¼	0¾	0.07	Birchin Wts	0¾	...	...	...
84	33½	20.00	Birmingham City	40	...	...	15.9
80½	44½	4.95	Blakes Cloth	49½	...	3.7	5.4
90	68	11.00	Bond Intl Soft	80½	– 1	...	22.4
240	145	1.68	Bowness Leis	240	+ 5	2.7	9.0
62½	27½	5.06	Brancote Hldgs	27½	– 1	...	...
105	85	3.86	Br Bloodstock	92	...	2.7	11.1
18½	16½	0.73	Buckland Inv	17½	...	...	...
12	8	0.08	Buckland Inv Wts	10	...	...	...
255	144½	29.90	CA Coutts Hldgs	253½	...	1.6	20.2
180	128½	11.50	C & B Publishing	180	– 5	...	13.3
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	...
190½	140½	1.28	CCI Hldgs	142½	– 5	2.2	...
217	170	9.56	Cafe Inns	195	...	1.9	14.8
70	55	7.38	Caledonian Tst	60	...	...	7.4
19	9	3.72	Cambridge Min Res	18½	...	...	...
3¾	2	3.39	Cambury Inv	2¼	...	...	...
1½	0½	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾	...	...	...
82	29	56.40	Card Clear	53½	+ 6½	0.6	...
97½	50½	5.10	Carisbrooke Ship	50½	...	8.7	8.2
62	40	3.02	Cassidy Bros	55	+ 5¾	6.8	...
57½	42½	2.22	Cavendish W	50½	...	4.2	23.2
18	9	6.75	Celebrated Group	11	...	3.3	19.8
£550	£195	78.50	Celtic	£255	...	...	7.3
£450	£195	41.60	Celtic Pf Shs	£225	–500	1.6	...
112½	71½	17.00	CI Comms(TV)	77½	+ 2	5.0	9.0
65	49½	12.30	Charlton Athl	53½	...	...	...
9¾	6¼	8.75	Charterhouse	8¾	...	3.3	12.3
37½	12½	1.44	Chartwell Intl	12½	...	...	...
170	88	151.90	Chelsea Village	97	– 1	...	...
265	70	4.85	Chemical Design	75	– 10	...	...
109½	92½	35.30	Citadel	107	...	...	...
113	90	8.85	Clan Homes	95	– 5	...	35.3
4½	2	0.84	ClubPartners	2	...	...	...
38½	7	13.80	Coffee Rep	25½	...	...	...
177½	105½	22.50	Compino	174½	+ 37	1.5	14.7
587½	307½	7.38	Com de Pt Fin	307½	...	3.8	...
215	109½	12.40	Computerland UK	208	+ 13½	0.9	22.9
30	14	8.49	Concurrent Tech	17½	...	1.4	33.8
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Pf	100	...	...	...
150	95	0.20	Conc Tech B Pf	100	...	...	...
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150	...	...	...
300	150	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	...
47	37½	8.51	Coolster Tst	38½	...	6.5	9.6
4½	2	4.68	Corporate Exec	3	...	..	50.1
37½	6½	6.41	Cross Intl	15	...	...	...
153½	146½	7.52	Cresco Intl	147½	...	...	...
290	190	3.24	Crown Eye	202½	...	7.7	54.9
28½	1¼	0.82	Crown Products	1¾	...	...	4.4
29½	18½	1.34	Dalkeith Ions	28	– 1	...	...
277½	175	13.00	Dawn Til Dusk	270	...	1.3	21.5
262½	170	100.70	Dawson Hldgs	171	– 9	3.5	15.3
315	167½	19.80	Deep Sea Leisure	315	+ 45	...	44.8
4½	2	3.88	Dealmaster	3	...	3.8	73.0
105½	68½	9.04	Digital Anmtn	81½	...	...	...
117½	74½	10.10	Delyn Group	116½	...	2.1	...
72½	22½	4.23	Dmatek	22½	...	...	...
352½	240	16.70	Dobbies Garden	347½	+ 52½	1.6	...
199½	122½	19.90	Dragons Health	198½	+ 1	0.4	22.3
3¼	2	2.27	Drings of Bath	3	+ ¼	..	19.3
242½	197½	6.09	Durlacher	217½	...	...	40.1
42½	30	3.38	Eagle	34½	...	...	...
95½	49½	17.70	Easyad	86½	+ 5	...	...
462½	207½	59.40	Elec Retail Sys	280	– 45	...	...
60½	27½	35.00	Electrophoretics	45	...	...	...
52½	7½	3.73	Epic Multimedia	16	+ ½	...	...
65	45	11.80	Epicure Newco	45	...	...	...
275	95	3.52	Eurasia Mining	95	...	...	...
320	125	26.90	Euro Sales Fn	292½	+117½	...	20.8
3¼	2¼	9.89	Fairplace Cons	3	...	...	...
350	140	5.20	Fartake	200	...	1.2	...
77½	47½	11.20	Faywood	53½	– 1½	3.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
211	84½	72.00	Fibernet	193½	– 4	...	...
69½	25½	1.32	Fieldens	26½	...	...	...
14½	2	0.46	First Inter	2¼	...	..	..
268½	109½	75.20	Fitness First	268½	+ 5	..	61.8
220	110	3.12	Flomerics	120	...	3.1	58.8
292½	52½	2.02	Floral St	65	– 5	2.9	4.3
32½	22½	4.72	FNR Hldgs	22½	...	...	...
152½	97½	10.40	Formscan	98½	...	2.9	10.8
165½	89½	14.90	Fountain Forestry	165½	+ 19	2.1	24.4
51¼	26½	157.50	Freepages	32	+ 2	...	...
184½	140½	11.00	Furlong Homes	184	+ ½	2.9	9.7
164½	62	9.60	Future Int Telep	86½	– 9	...	...
296	129½	15.70	GB Railways	178½	– 1	...	9.4
65	47½	6.27	GR Hldgs	47½	...	...	...
55½	45½	14.80	Gall Thomson Env	47½	...	3.3	9.7
16¼	11½	35.80	Gander Hldgs	12¼	– ½	..	...
127½	82½	100.50	Gartland W&B	115½	– 1½	2.6	13.8
35½	29¼	1.42	General Inds	35½	...	...	..
168½	54½	137.50	Geo Int Media	137½	– 14	...	...
33½	12	29.90	Gold Mns Sard	23	+ ½	...	...
26	7	7.10	Gold Mns Sard Wts	13¼	...	...	...
171½	123½	26.80	Gooch & Housego	158½	– 2	1.2	24.7
27	15	1.67	Griffin Mining	16	..	...	..
2½	2½	0.03	Griffin Mng Wts	2½	...	...	..
3½	2¼	2.75	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	...	...	...
1½	0½	1.50	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	1¼	...	...	...
15¼	11¼	2.44	Grosvenor Ltd	15	+ ¼	...	...
172	140	38.90	Guiton	172	...	3.5	13.0
8¼	5¾	2.39	Hanson	6¼	...	...	..
175	140	13.18	Hardy Underwrig	142	...	1.8	31.5
80½	44½	2.75	Hat Pin	62½	...	5.4	20.7
325	275	5.83	Hemitree	325	..	2.9	.
275	245	11.60	Hemitree A	275	...	3.5	...
135	70½	4.89	Helicon Pub	79½	...	...	...
400	110	25.00	Hercules Prop	385	+ 40	0.8	17.8
210	105	18.70	Highams Sys	210	+ 2	..	29.8
137½	120½	8.42	Highland Timber	129½	...	...	...
93	65	1.24	Hurlingham	77½	+ 1	1.6	50.2
107½	81½	6.40	Hydro-Dynamic	95½	– 2	4.9	10.8
172½	57	12.80	IES	74	– ½	1.4	...
208½	134½	9.84	I S Solutions	205	..	..	69.4
247½	55½	40.30	Indpt Energy	227½	+ 32½	...	..
139½	83½	11.90	Indpt Radio	66½	+ 3	...	..
225	141½	55.00	Inkbank Intl	220	+ 1½	...	..
84½	42½	17.80	Inner Workings	84½	.	...	...
125	102½	3.25	Integrl As Mgt	125	...	...	...
82½	17½	8.81	Intelligent Env	37½	+ 2½	...	...
8	5	15.80	Int Tool & Sup	6½	...	...	..
110	37½	22.70	Internet Tech	56	– 2	..	..
457½	222½	55.10	Intl Greetings	417½	– 15	2.1	14.9
179½	59½	36.20	IOC Intl	145½	– 12	...	...
232½	150½	10.20	ITG Group	231½	+ 7	...	...
155½	43½	4.31	Jardinerie Ints	49	– ½	..	..
185½	62½	7.56	Jasmin	184½	+ 14	...	10.5
385	290	29.20	Jennings Bros	384	+ 14	2.5	30.3
4¼	3	5.53	J Lewis Hlord	4	...	3.4	15.9
62½	40	8.93	Jordec	52½	...	...	17.4
40	17½	4.44	Jumbo Intl	31½	...	...	..
5¾	1½	4.02	Just Group	2	...	...	..
265	91½	109.60	KS Biomedix	258½	+ 21	...	...
50½	37½	4.31	Kern River	37½	...	...	..
78	47½	5.88	Keystone Soft	52½	+ 2	..	..
35	17½		Keystone Wts	20½	– 1	...	...
199½	158½	15.40	Kingfisher Ls	158½	...	1.6	14.0
172½	118½	7.08	Lady in Leisure	168½	...	...	...
158½	92½	7.00	Landround	155½	...	2.7	18.9
132½	15½	6.87	La Senza	20½	– 1	...	...
150	85	23.90	Enterprises	87½	– 4½	6.3	..
427½	340	29.40	Lawrence	420	...	2.4	16.1
4050	3150	77.00	Lawrie Group	4050	.	2.3	18.6
98½	76½	6.47	Lepco	87½	– 5	...	34.5
535	326	88.80	Le Riches Strs	535	+ 32	4.9	17.0
535	480	9.90	Loades	495	...	0.3	14.3
106½	24½	10.00	Loftus Road	25	– 1	...	...
12¾	4¾	2.29	Lon & Edin Publ	7½	..	...	...
90	65	2.17	London Town	87	.	3.7	7.7
189½	112½	5.73	Longbridge Intl	173½	...	1.4	24.2
144½	139½	5.06	Longmead	140½	.	4.5	9.6
87½	25½	6.38	Loox	27½	...	...	...
3¼	1¼	3.03	Lotteryking	1¾	– ¼	...	49.6
1	0½	0.69	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	..
88	29½	3.78	MMS Petroleum	31	– ½	...	..
27½	6	4.14	Magnum Power	6½	...	...	...
447½	239½	51.70	Majestic Wine	397½	– 7½	1.1	28.2
18½	6	3.80	Manx & Overs	6	...	...	...
57½	53½	7.99	Market Link Pb	54	...	..	11.5
169½	95½	44.70	Marlborough Int	169½	...	..	30.7
125	100	2.62	Matrix Hlthcare	114	...	6.6	19.6
13¼	10¼	4.45	Mears Group	12	...	3.1	11.0
27½	13½	44.30	Medisys	25½	...	...	...
98½	58	37.00	Megalomedia	60	..	0.4	28.5
93½	50½	0.55	Megalomedia Wts	50½	...	...	...
57½	39½	2.80	Melbek	40	...	7.8	29.5
65	22½	19.20	Memory Corp	27½	– 1	...	...
99½	60½	60.50	Metalrussia	60½	...	..	...
71½	46	4.97	Metltwen's	58½	+ 5	...	...
25	11	2.71	Metrodome	11	...	...	...
85½	45½	33.30	Minorplanet	84½	+ 25	..	...
84½	57½	4.73	Mondas	77½	– 2	...	..
350	200	33.50	Moneypay	310	...	1.9	...
126½	67½	5.32	Mountcashel	70	– 8	...	...
215	48½	12.10	Mulberry Group	58½	...	3.2	11.9
40	2	1.55	MultiMedia	2½	...	...	...
21	14¾	1.13	NECA	15¼	...	4.2	..
54½	44½	19.60	NMT	50	...	...	...

1997/98 High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
72½	52½	2.02	NRP	69½	...	2.2	...
195½	140	17.90	MSB Retail Sys	185	...	0.8	71.8
285	185	15.00	NWF Grp	190	...	5.4	10.1
220	155	13.30	Nash (Wm)	190	...	5.0	6.7
300	260	7.28	Neill Clark	260	...	1.8	16.4
85½	45½	8.08	Netcall	53½	+ 1	..	..
80½	75	1.52	Nothomes	80	...	..	24.8
50½	17½	3.33	Nthn Petim	18	+ ½	..	...
55½	28½	3.50	Northstar Sec	55½	+ 5	..	..
26½	3	0.53	Northstar Sec Wts	26½	+ 2½	..	..
146½	112½	104.60	Nursing Home	146½	+ 7	5.3	23.5
10½	0¾	0.58	Omnimedia	1½	...	..	..
97½	27½	1.01	On Line	30½	..	..	6.8
175	137½	15.20	Optoplast	175	+ 12½	2.2	13.7
65½	14½	8.27	Oxford Biomedica	14½	– 5	...	...
3¾	0½	10.10	Pacific Media	0¾	...	...	..
69½	25	16.60	Pan Andean Res	35	+ 3½	...	...
245	220	5.64	Park Ests(Liv)	235	– 5	4.8	23.0
23¾	13	7.44	Pembertons	15½	...	...	..
57½	29	6.59	Personal No Co	42½	+ 1	...	...
152½	38½	31.00	Petra Diamonds	92½	...	...	...
117½	13½	1.10	Petra Dmnds Wt	66	...	...	...
137½	14½	20.20	Philippine Gd	30	+ 10½	..	..
70½	47½	10.20	Pilot Tech	47½	..	.	10.4
138½	97½	23.70	Polymasc Pharms	118½	– 4	.	..
2¾	1¼	2.73	Porlum Foods	1¼	– ¼	.	37.4
1½	0½	0.16	Porlum Fds Wts	0¾	..	..	...
21½	12	11.80	Premier Asset Mgt	13½	– ¾	..	..
6	4¼	108.90	Prestbury Group	5	+ ½	0.8	20.2
590	445	8.90	Preston Nth E	445	...	..	68.1
104½	92	15.20	Primary Hlth Pr	95	...	4.2	28.5
590	280	89.80	Prism Rail	355	+ 10	1.8	...
95½	56½	13.70	Pycraft & Arnold	87½	..	..	14.0
127½	52½	12.90	Q Group	77½	...	..	56.6
1265	695	220.50	Ramco Egy	730	– 15	0.2	..
9	5	9.38	Range Cooker	7½	..	.	6.7
110½	77½	11.90	Raphael Zrn	80½	..	3.9	9.5
127½	62½	10.10	Recycling Servs	62½	..	1.0	28.1
125	7½	1.30	Reflec	10½	– 1½	..	..
7¼	4¼	5.80	Revelation Plc	6¼	+ ¼	2.0	7.4
45	16½	12.20	Riceman Insce	18½	– ½	.	17.7
105½	74½	5.33	Romtec	102½	..	1.8	22.0
255	105½	16.30	SBS	230	..	1.3	30.3
182½	145½	17.00	SCi Ent	145½	– 2	..	13.6
42½	4½	1.12	SEA Multimedia	4½	– 3	.	..
75½	62½	6.39	Sanctuary Music	64½*	– 1	.	5.7
116½	104½	5.71	Savoy Asset Mgt	116½	..	4.4	14.4
209½	139½	35.60	Science Sys	209½	+ 1	0.9	30.9
12½	5½	0.95	Scotswood Inds	9	..	..	..
6	2	5.11	Screen	2½	..	..	10.3
350	230	14.60	Scrutons	305	..	5.3	57.8
82	42½	8.29	Selector	42½	..	..	..
184½	154½	13.00	Shalbane	182½	– 2	3.0	15.1
104½	70½	3.79	Shelton (M)	71½	...	7.4	15.0
47½	12½	77.80	Silver Energy	29	– 4½	..	..
4½	2¾	8.78	Simi Bus Serv	4	...	1.9	15.2
1½	1	0.24	Sim Bus Wts	1¼	...	..	..
3¾	0¾	6.73	Snakeboard	1	...	..	..
84½	67½	4.44	Solid State Sp	70½	+ 1	5.3	25.5
222½	152½	10.20	Soldiers	222½	+ 17½	3.4	16.5
34½	14½	1.46	Soundtracs	14½	.	3.4	...
6½	2¾	4.86	South Beach Cafe	3	..	..	..
783	519½	183.50	Southern News	755	+ 12½	3.3	30.1
94½	65½	18.30	Southern Vectis	92½	..	2.8	14.3
417½	173½	45.50	Stallware	376	– 16½	0.3	49.2
635	77	28.20	Stanford Rook	146	– 9½	..	..
177½	102½	16.20	Stentor	138½	– 6	.	..
70	37		Stentor Warrants	53½	..	..	..
148½	77½	23.50	Style Hldgs	148½	+ 9½	1.3	18.2
155	127	14.30	Sutton Harbour	143½	..	3.0	19.4
22	5	1.07	Syst Integ Rsch	6	..	...	..
23	14	3.53	TDS Circuits	16½	..	..	6.3
97½	21½	4.29	Theo Fennell	26½	..	..	12.0
14	5	10.30	Thomas Potts	5½	+ ½	3.5	43.2
37½	22½	2.99	Tom Hoskins	29	...	..	..
158½	80	18.90	Total Office	117½	.	4.5	...
675	375	30.60	TRACKER Netwk	577½	+ 50	..	37.1
150	48	15.00	Tradepoint Fcl	52	.	..	..
167	140	5.51	Trinity Care	145	+ 6	4.3	41.2
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	.	5.5	..
60½	14¾	95.50	Trocadero	18¼	+ ½	..	..
40	38	3.46	Uuvest	38	..	..	21.0
397½	287½	5.26	Utd Auctions	292½	..	3.8	4.2
280	120	20.20	VDC	192	+ 7	3.4	15.4
53	32	60.60	Victory Corp	32	– 3½	..	..
242½	23½	1.06	Vianum	23½	..	..	..
240	160	4.48	Voss Net	160	..	..	...
88½	49¼	30.00	Waterlot	86	+ 2½	..	18.2
35½	27	5.32	Watermark	28	+ ½	3.6	9.3
7	4½	6.03	Weeks Group	4½	..	2.9	8.2
115	60	2.46	West 175 Enter	60	– 10	..	...
£280	£125	10.60	West Bromwich	£145	..	..	..
13½	10½	5.62	Western Selecta	13	...	...	32.0
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	..	..	..
142½	44½	15.50	Westmount Engy	138½	+ 12	..	..
94½	80½	4.54	Whitecross	94½	+ 2	...	..
103½	45½	7.69	Winchester	62½	.	..	..
197	152	40.50	World Telecom	186	+ 6	..	..
135	120	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	.	4.6	14.0
14	5¾	4.93	XL Comms	5¾	..	..	..
4	1½	0.06	XL Comms Wts	1¼	..	..	..
12	5½	3.30	Xavier Corp	5½	– 1½	..	4.9
157½	83½	4.01	Yeoman	83½	..	..	..
300	215	21.60	Zergo	235	+ 15	..	..
29½	4	1.15	Zicor Mining	5	..	..	..

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Exporters set to take a hard pounding

ROGER BOOTLE

Currency forecasters have to live with the error of their ways. Indeed, many of them seem to make a profession out of it. What will happen to the pound this year presents one of their greatest challenges. Most of them were caught out by sterling's sharp rise and have been sitting on forecasts of an imminent weakening ever since. They foresee a sharp fall later this year, because they argue that the pound is severely over-valued. (On the latter charge, I too plead guilty.) But in that case, we should soon be seeing the effects in weaker trade performance and gloom among industrialists. Thursday may provide supporting evidence in the shape of the latest trade data and the CBI industrial trends survey. Yet the longer the pound continues at these elevated levels, the more serious the doubts become. Could sterling stay at these levels, or even move higher?

I am frequently asked why I seem to be so keen on a weak currency. Would not it be better, people ask, if the pound could hold current levels? The answer, of course, is that it would be better — provided that we could sustain the exchange rate without adverse consequences. But that is like saying that we would all be better off if wages and salaries were 10 per cent higher. Anyone travelling abroad over the past year will have felt the benefit of the strong currency, and industry has similarly benefited from lower costs for imported goods. If exporters could raise their prices, then our terms of trade with the rest of the world would have improved. In short, we would be able to get more imports (including foreign holidays) for our exports. If exporters could do this without suffering a loss of orders, then we would definitely be better off.

But is this likely? The argument in favour is that two decades of wrenching economic reforms have dramatically improved Britain's competitiveness so that the current, apparently high, exchange rate is fully appropriate to our circumstances. I wish I could believe this. The exchange rate has risen some 25 per cent in 18 months. If the pound is not over-valued now then either it was under-valued before, or the dramatic improvements in competitiveness have taken effect during the last year-and-a-half. This second proposition is difficult to swallow. After all, the reductions in union power, large-scale privatisation and the restructuring of the economy took place many years ago.

Could the pound have been severely under-valued 18 months ago? If it was, then we might expect to see Britain recording a significant trade surplus. Yet it did not, and still does not. The current account last year showed a small surplus, after three years of small deficits. Perhaps you can explain this by saying that although our exchange rate was competitive, we did not register a large surplus because our main markets in Europe were weak. But other leading markets in North America and the Far East were strong. Moreover, although Europe may recover this year, it will be well short of a bonanza. Weak European growth may be the norm.

Perhaps you could argue that although the pound was under-valued. British exporters did not realise the strength of their competitive position and hence sold our exports at lower prices than they could command in world markets. Pretty unlikely, isn't it? Moreover, recent surveys have shown exporters more pessimistic than at any time since the dark days of 1991.

So we are forced to the conclusion that the pound is over-valued at the current level. It has not yet had severely adverse consequences, partly because of those self-same currency forecasts with which I began. The strong pound was simply not believed in. Accordingly, it made sense for exporters to absorb some of the impact by squeezing profit margins. In any case, the usual lags between orders and production provided a cushion, and there was a chance to hedge foreign currency exposure, thereby, for a time, continuing with the old exchange rate. But both the lags and the hedges will now have run out.

Saying that the pound is over-valued, however, is not the same as saying that it is bound to fall. Using economists' estimates of the appropriate exchange rate as a basis for speculating on currencies is just about the fastest route to penury known to man. The international demand for sterling assets could easily overwhelm trade considerations. The countries of continental Europe are about to embark on the greatest monetary experiment in history. Japanese assets look unattractive. In the rest of Asia, prospects continue to be clouded by the after-effects of the recent crisis. Meanwhile, Britain enjoys decent growth, low inflation, sound public finances, a credible policy framework and liquid financial markets. Besides Britain, only the US stands out as an attractive home for money. Interestingly, it too enjoys a super-strong currency which, as last week's trade figures made clear, now threatens to contribute to a ballooning current account deficit and weaker economic growth.

For exporters, the year ahead presents a possibility almost too dreadful to contemplate, namely that although the economists turn out to be right about the dire effects of the strong currency, the markets fail to take heed. Indeed, a much weaker trade performance may already be fully discounted. In that case, bearing in mind worries about the Far East and about the euro, there could still be considerable upside risk on the pound. Exporters may wish to recall the adage which has stood many an economist in good stead — "For every silver lining, there's a cloud".

Danger in giving regulators a role as competition police

Lord Simon of Highbury says change would be premature

With the Competition Bill due in the Lords tonight, **Thomas Sharpe**, QC, attacks the Government's proposals to set loose a pack of industry watchdogs

The Government is to be congratulated on bringing forward an overhaul of the UK's antiquated and toothless competition laws. This is a major achievement. The Bill's introduction in the Lords, rather than the Commons, reflects its technical nature and cross-party support.

Under the new Act, the centre of gravity moves away from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Restrictive Practices Court to the Office of Fair Trading. The Act introduces prohibitions on anti-competitive behaviour. These prohibitions are to be enforced by the Director-General of Fair Trading (DGFT). He will have tough investigatory powers to enter and search premises and demand explanations. He will make formal decisions and has the power to fine companies. Anyone affected by anti-competitive conduct will be able to sue those responsible for their loss.

The DGFT will publish "guidance" papers as to how he proposes to enforce the law. At least 50 new staff will be recruited to the OFT. The Restrictive Practices Court will be abolished. The MMC, renamed the Competition Commission, will, largely, report only on merger cases and utility references, where price cap and licence modifications are involved. For everything else, the buck starts and stops with the DGFT, subject to appeal to a new tribunal, confusingly placed within the new Competition Commission. (It should be independent and presided over by a senior judge.)

The problem is that the Government is not contemplating one investigatory and enforcement body, but eight. Under the Act, in addition to the DGFT, all the regulators, including those — where relevant — for Northern Ireland, for telecommunications, electricity, water, rail and gas will have "concurrent" powers. This means that each of them, in addition to his or her central role in ensuring that each company obeys the terms of its licence, will be able to investigate, enforce and fine companies within their sector of responsibility under the new Act.

This proposal was rightly criticised in the Lords debate in November and will be the subject of spirited attempts to change it this evening. As it stands, the Bill will lead to duplication of scarce resources among regulators; the certainty of inconsistency of treatment between regulators and difficulties over which regulator should have jurisdiction in any situation. These problems will get worse as technologies converge to smudge sectors' borders, or where utilities diversify into unregulated businesses, or where agreements involve two or more regulated sectors or where a company is regulated by more than one regulator, like United Utilities or Hyder.

The position is made even worse because the regulators' powers under the new Act must be exercised in a manner that furthers the regulators' different specific statutory objectives as well as competition. So, for example, in telecommunications, this includes the universal service obligation, the position of the disabled and pensioners, the promotion of inward investment, overseas competitiveness, and other factors that are both specific to telecommunications and irrelevant to the assessment of competition. Not only will the tribunal have to master the statutory objectives of each regulator, but the stated objective of consistency with EU competition law will become virtually impossible to achieve.

Lord Simon of Highbury will answer for the Government tonight. When he addressed the Lords on the same issue in November, he began conservatively. Any change would alter the status quo. The regulators enjoy concurrent powers at present. This should not be changed.

In fact, the concurrent powers he was referring to will not be taken away. The long-stop concurrent power under the Fair Trading Act is to make a monopoly reference to the MMC — and has hardly, if ever, been exercised. This is a slow-motion sledgehammer to

> "As it stands, the Bill will lead to duplication of scarce resources"

crack what may be a nut. Understandably, regulators have preferred to use their stronger powers under each licence, which usually enables them to deal directly with any problem. What is at issue is whether regulators should have the new powers under the Act to investigate, make decisions, and fine, in conjunction with the DGFT, with obvious risks of duplication, inconsistency and opaqueness, all of which will survive even the most elaborate bureaucratic co-ordination. The balance of the argument is against it.

Lord Simon also disagreed because regulators have expertise on their sector. This is a "key asset" leading to better regulation.

Opinions differ on the levels of "competition" expertise shown by regulators. That industries such as water and electricity are regulated at all is because competition is not normally possible. There is therefore little experience of dealing with anti-competitive conduct. If, on the other hand, it is specialist knowledge of an industry that justifies concurrent powers, the same arguments would apply to broadcasting, financial services or gambling, yet no one has suggested vesting competition powers with regulators in these or other areas. The argument falls away.

Lord Simon also said competition and regulation were a "seamless web"; there was no real difference between them.

This is a fundamental mistake. A consensus has emerged that if competition were present, this was preferable to continuing regulation. The Government, by bringing together the different tools of "regulation" and "competition", is essentially entrenching a permanent role for sectoral "regulation" when, in some areas, future regulation should be very limited indeed. The Director-General of Telecommunications (DGT) has himself recognised the transformation of Oftel from regulatory body to competition authority. However, the logical consequence of the DGT's success is that the case for regulation has gone and that telecommunications competition issues should fall under the OFT. Why is this so unthinkable to the DGT, who has been diligently lobbying against any changes to the Bill?

Finally, Lord Simon said that it would be premature to change the regime because the utility regime was being reviewed separately. "It would be quite inappropriate to use this Bill — dealing with the general competition framework — to make such a major change to the arrangements for sectoral regulation," he said.

The major change involved is, of course, to expand regulators' powers far beyond the existing remit. It is surely no less inappropriate to make such a big change in regulators' powers in the context of changing the general competition framework? Lord Simon leaves open the possibility of a later adjustment, if any, in the context of changes to the powers of the utility regulators. But "competition" issues are understandably going to be completely peripheral in that context. The Government must decide now.

When such countries as Italy and New Zealand reformed their competition regimes, they were able to withstand the pressure of regulators to intrude into areas of competition enforcement and are glad they did so. The same should be so in the UK. The DGFT's task over the next two or three years is going to be hard enough in providing definition and coherence to the new law without having to worry about problems created by the regulators. The regulators have by far the stronger set of (summary) powers in the relevant company licences. If these powers are inadequate and the regulators can persuade either the regulated company or the MMC that they should be modified, the licences will be modified. The country gets a coherent competition regime: the regulators get the powers they think they need. Is there a problem?

The author specialises in UK and EU competition law and utility regulation

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Time-traveller plus one

Goodnight Sweetheart
BBC1, 8.30pm

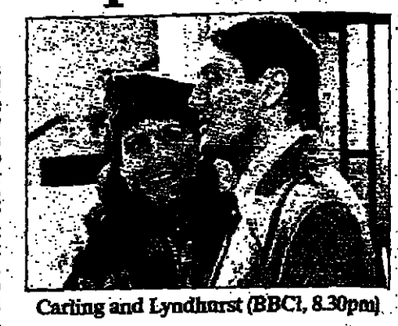
The time travel comedy in which Nicholas Lyndhurst slips in and out of the Second World War seems to have going on almost as long as the war itself. This is the fifth series and we have only got to January 1944. But trust the ubiquitous Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran to freshen up a formula that was threatening to go stale. Their masterstroke has been to introduce an appealing little boy, the son of Lyndhurst's Gary Sparrow by his wartime wife (Elizabeth Carling). Never act with children, they say, and this lad is a potent scene-stealer. He is also another time traveller, which means that Gary has much explaining to do when his 1998 wife (Emma Amos) returns from a business trip and finds him with the child. A subsidiary delight, in the 1944 narrative, is Gary's encounter with Noël Coward.

The War Machine
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (Dera for short) sounds dull but this three-part series will do its best to convince you otherwise. Dera's job is to design weapons for future wars and its customer is the Ministry of Defence. Tonight's film is about a high-tech infantry soldier and the boffins have clearly been watching their Hollywood films. The inspiration of *Robocop*, *Alien* and *Terminator* is happily acknowledged. But these were fiction. Getting the technology to work in the real world is another matter. Our future soldier has a smart helmet, designed to project target data onto screens in front of his eyes. But nobody reckoned with bright sunshine which makes the screens unreadable. Other clever ideas prove no more successful. It would be funny if it was not costing us so much money: £3 million to date with another £4 million planned.

Dispatches Special
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Ten years ago Gwynne Roberts was the first British journalist to produce scientific evidence of the use of chemical weapons by Saddam Hussein. Roberts's report was based on film he took of Iraqi Kurds who had been gassed in the northern city of



Carling and Lyndhurst (BBC1, 8.30pm)

Halabja. At some personal risk he has been back to the area to assess the long-term effects of chemical warfare. He reveals a large increase in the incidence of cancers, skin deformities and nerve damage. Professor Christine Gosden, a British medical geneticist who accompanies Roberts in Iraq, is also concerned that the chemical gases may have genetic effects. She compares the aftermath of a chemical weapons attack to that of nuclear warfare. The film has evidence of wider environmental destruction, including mutated animals and vegetation.

Face to Face
BBC2, 11.15pm

You cannot flatter David Mamet, not even by calling him "one of the "great" American playwrights. If Sir Jeremy Isaacs thought he could disarm his subject by this effusive introduction, he soon realises he is wrong. Mamet is so controlled that he might as well be conducting the interview himself. He answers the questions he chooses to answer and it is to Isaacs's credit that he manages to keep the conversation flowing. But the programme is by no means a waste of time. Having acted, written and directed, and worked in the theatre as well as the cinema, Mamet has a shrewd assessment of these roles in the two mediums. As the grandson of Polish Jewish immigrants, he is well equipped to talk about the American melting pot. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Rough Girls
Radio 5 Live, 7.30pm

Female football supporters might be extinct for all that they are featured in the broadcast media, although — our own Lynne Truss and one or two others excepted — print journalism has never been much better at giving women fans the coverage they deserve. This absorbing half-hour helps to redress the balance: the programme tells us that Preston North End had to abandon a scheme to let women supporters in for nothing because 2,000 women started turning up for every match and the club could not cope. And that was 100 years ago. Helen Mayhew, who suffers from an unfortunate affliction (she is a Spurs supporter), talks to a spritely 91-year-old who paid to get into Preston's ground and who remains a season ticket holder.

Cancer and You
Radio 2, all day

Campaigns are now established on the Radio 2 landscape and this one, lasting a year, is one of the biggest. Martin Clunes introduces the campaign: his father died of cancer and Clunes is heavily involved with the charity Macmillan Cancer Relief. The object of the Radio 2 campaign is to provide programming for listeners who either have cancer or have relatives and friends with cancer. The programmes are backed up with a helpline (0800 *022022*), and a free booklet. Today the campaign is featured in Anne Robinson's programme at 11.30am and in *Hayes Over Britain* at 9.30pm. There are more programmes tomorrow and the campaign will thereafter feature different types of cancer every two months. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 The Evening Session 8.30 Trade Update with Clare McDonnell 8.40 Andy Kershaw. Includes a session from Black Umfolosi 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson. See Choice 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Laycock 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes Over Britain. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Rough Girls. See Choice 8.00 The Monday Match: Liverpool v Everton 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Ray Cokes 10.00 Calmin Jones 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

5.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europa Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Air and Angels 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 International Question Time 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 On the Rocks 9.30 Westway Access 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Jazzamatazz 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 What's News 2.45 The Lab 3.00 World News; (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 World Ranking 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today. (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europa Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Counterpoint; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Braving the Deeps 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Hit List 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Just a Taste 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Civilization 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europa Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europa Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey. Music for the morning rush 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes Record of the Week, Hall of Fame Hour and a chance to hear Michael Barry's recipe for savoury Dutch pancakes 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto. Bruch (Scottish Fantasy) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. Presented by John Bruning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Bruning 9.00 Evening Concert. Arnold (A Sussex Overture); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); Howells (Requiem); Vaughan Williams (A Pastoral Symphony) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Stephanie Hughes. Mozart (Symphony No 33 in B minor); Poulenc (Trio for piano, oboe and bassoon); Strauss (Morgen); Chopin (Polonaise in A flat); Smetana (Overture: The Bartered Bride); Borodin (Polovtsian Dances)
9.00 **Masterworks**, with Peter Hobday. Includes Rameau (Suite Anacreon); Bach (Partita No 3 in E); Tippett (Piano Sonata No 1); Beethoven (String Quartet in F)
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Cecile Ousset.** Joan Bakewell talks to the French pianist Cecile Ousset
11.00 **Sound Stories: Great Dancers.** Peggy Reynolds profiles the legendary ballerina Anna Pavlova
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Robert Schumann**
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.** Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Olaf Bar, baritone, Camillo Radicke, piano. Schumann (Six Songs); Brahms (Nine Songs); Schumann (Three Poems)
2.05 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Howard Shelley, piano. Glinka (Overture Ruslan and Ludmilla); Haydn (Symphony No 83 in G minor, La Poule); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini); Shostakovich (Symphony No 10)
4.00 **Music Matters**, with Ivan Hewett (r)
4.45 **Music Machine.** Tommy Pearson joins the LSO to investigate the planning of a symphony concert
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty talks to the choreographer Michael Pink, whose latest ballet The Hunchback of Notre Dame opens tonight at the Northern Ballet Theatre
7.30 **Performance on 3: The Shostakovich Symphonies.** London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich, compl Rozhdestvensky (Suite New Babylon); Shostakovich (Suite: The Age of Gold; Symphony No 3)
9.00 **Postscript: Twist in the Tale.** The author A.S. Byatt and the film-maker Nick Willing relive the story of Snow White (1/5)
9.25 **Music for Organ.** Played by Susan Lansdale. Vierne (Organ Symphony No 2 in E minor)
10.00 **Voices.** Iain Burnside introduces a recital of English lyric songs by Hubert Parry, who was born 150 years ago. A selection of his settings of Shakespeare, Keats, Byron and Parry's contemporary poets is performed by Martyn Hill, tenor, and Andrew Ball, piano.
10.45 **Mixing It.** Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present a blend of musical styles
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Shostakovich** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Digby Fairweather presents a studio set from John Slaughter's blues band
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 James Anagnoson and Leslie Kinton, pianos. Arensky (Suites Nos 2, 3 and 4) 2.00 RTE Concert Orchestra, under Proinnsias O Duinn, with Michael D'Arcy, violin). Mozart (Serenade in G, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik; Violin Concerto No 5 in A, Turkish) 3.00 Schools 5.00 Reznicek (Overture Donna Diana) 5.15 Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue) 5.40 Stravinsky (Dumbarton Oaks, two-piano version)

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) **Shipping Forecast** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 An Intimate History of Conversation. The historian and thinker Theodore Zeldin looks at good and bad conversations of the past (1/6) 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Start the Week**, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 (FM) **News; Food Chain.** Susan Rae discovers how to become a TV chef and how to write a cookery book (3/4)
10.00 (LW) **News; Daily Service.** From St German's Church, Cardiff, led by the Rev Roy Jenkins with the Welsh Chamber Singers
10.15 (LW) **On These Days.** Ian McMillan considers the changing face of schools
10.30 **Woman's Hour.** Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 **Money Box Live.** Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on personal finance
12.00 **News; You and Yours.** John Waite investigates listeners' consumer complaints
12.25pm **Counterpoint.** Heat eight of the general knowledge music quiz hosted by Ned Sherrin 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Moonbeam and Mrs Pat**, by Peter Ling. With Imelda Staunton, Sarah Badel and Zulema Dene (r)
3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Lynne Walker reads a biography of Robert Bolt, author of the play and film A Man for All Seasons, and the screenplays for Dr Zhivago and Lawrence of Arabia
4.45 **Short Story: Waste Flesh**, by Gee Williams, read by Robert Harper
5.00 **PM**, with Clare English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** 6.30 **The News Quiz.** Simon Hoggart quizzes Jeremy Hardy and other guests on the week's events (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **The Food Programme**, with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 **The Monday Play: Mothers at the Gate**, by Helen Cooper. A daughter searches for the mother who left her ten years before. With Kate Ashfield and Maggie Steed
9.15 **Letters from Algeria**, with John Simpson (3/3)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Bookshop**, by P. Fitzgerald (6/10) (r)
11.00 (FM) **Reinventing God.** The writer and social philosopher Charles Handy retraces his steps in his search for meaning
11.00 (LW) **Education Matters**, with David Walter
11.30 (FM) **Sweet Blood.** Elizabeth Baines's evocative drama about a woman captivated by her bizarre new boyfriend. With Rebecca Callard and Con O'Neill
11.30 (LW) **Today in Parliament**
12.00 **News** 12.30am **The Late Book: Lucky You**, by Carl Haasen, read by Kerry Shale (6/10)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الاصل

Very well done, and that's only half the story

The two-part drama is a format relatively new to television, but it is already a firm favourite. Not with viewers, but with schedulers. If they get a decent audience for the first part, they are more or less guaranteed good figures for part two, provided the "hook" at the end of part one is strong enough.

I tend to go a bit Victor Meldrew at the sight of the "to be continued" line at the end of part one, though it is not so much that I don't believe it, as a matter of not believing that I missed the warning in the listings. In reviewing mode I have to be more careful with the paperwork, so I knew that last night's **Heaven on Earth** (BBC1) was only half the story. But having admitted that I loathe the format, I have to add that this is a very good piece of work, so far.

Indeed *Heaven on Earth* is an object lesson, especially for the producers of some of the more dismal drama series that both the major networks have run over the past couple of years. The lesson of this one is that in a competitive field, the temptation to cut corners must, absolutely must, be resisted. And that means every corner: the performances, the writing, the directing, the locations and so on.

The result of doing it properly is, in this case, a completely believable drama which manages to look fresh even though its writer, Adrian Hodges, was partly inspired by the wacky Waco cult leader David Koresh. But Hodges's main nod is in the direction of the Anabaptists, a Christian sect with a small membership in Britain which is neither wacky nor extreme.

Heaven on Earth is the story of a middle-class couple whose life in London goes wrong: his work as a graphic designer dries up, her work at a doctor's surgery puts her in the way of temptation. Neil Pearson and Geraldine Somerville are excellent as Richard and Deborah, who take off when their crisis is at its worst to live with the sect in Wales. Deborah's grandfather, Isaac (Lionel Jeffries) is the sect's Patriarch, but he is dying.

If the conversion of Richard from cynic ("What do we do now" he asks on arrival, "trade beads?") to fanatic and Isaac's successor is a touch predictable, that hardly matters. The writing is so good that the way the transformation is scripted becomes much more compelling than the fact that it is happening. There is a good deal of irony in Richard's rejection of the "vicious" outside world, only to destroy the relationship with his wife and their daughter through the vicious pursuit of his own aims.

Mind you, one has to be careful with that word irony. It turned up, not as a device but as a subject, in

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

One Night Stand-Up (BBC2 last night), the second programme in an excellent series called **The Entertainment Biz**. Ed Byrne, one of the three comedians featured, was telling a London pub audience that irony is an overworked word. A man being late for a meeting because of a traffic jam, "that isn't irony, that's just unfortunate". But if the man was a traffic planner on his way to a meeting about congestion, then the hold-up would be ironic.

Byrne and both of the other comedians — Jackie Mason and Greg Proops — demonstrate just how far stand-up comedy has come. On the surface Mason, filmed at the London Palladium, is simply your old-style, New York Jewish comic, but he is that and more. Like the others, he uses the way people speak, not just the things they say, as a hook for much of the comedy.

The programme focused on London because the capital has seen a huge increase in stand-up venues in the past decade or so. The reason is money. If a pub wants to put on entertainment, it can choose a band or a comedian. A band is several people, a comedian is one person. A band is several microphones, a comedian is one microphone.

But the comedians are in it for money, too. Mason: "Nobody ever became a comedian because he's trying to bring happiness to people, he's trying to bring cash to the bank, that's what he's trying to bring." More cash in Mason's case than in Byrne's. He took home £60 in twenties from the North London pub gig. Byrne is on a "door split": the more people turn up, the more money he gets, although a full house is worth only £60 to £80.

But the work is plentiful while the pubs are plentiful. Proops said: "At its most basic level, you're telling jokes to drunks in bars, so that they will buy booze, so that the bar will stay open, so that they will have a comedy night on Thursday so that you can come back."

One of the best stand-ups around started his own series, **Is It Bill Bailey?** (BBC2) on Friday night. I could describe Bailey, except that he perfectly describes himself: "1982 Meat Loaf, *Stars in Their Eyes* regional winner." He is wonderfully resourceful with language and a considerable musician to boot; but why do comedians feel obliged to use the sketch format as soon as they get a show on television?

The insistence on sketches, at least one of which was far too long, reduced Bailey's time at the keyboard. That is a pity, because his spoof television show themes are very amusing and their musical clichés expose some of the less resourceful writers of such themes.

Bailey is best at just standing there, with or without the keyboard. He stretches convention and makes it unconventional, using daft scenarios to create wonderful word pictures. One routine harnesses the power of dogs wagging their tales to create electricity: "Four thousand Alsatians locked in a shed, bloke in a rabbit suit running up and down all day going: 'good boy, good boy, walkies, walkies'."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (65897)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (10453)
9.00 Style Challenge (8150491)
9.25 Change That in Hereford (8179526)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (2163033)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2196897)
10.55 The Really Useful Show An appeal for donations and volunteer help at the launch of Make Yourself Useful Week (T) (7002217)
12.00 News (T) (8906859)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (1005588)
12.35 Wipeout (6522168)
1.00 News (T) and weather (60930)
1.30 Regional News (T) (71571491)
1.40 The Weather Show (87027471)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (21296410)
2.10 Ironside (r) (6158385)
3.00 Lion Country Longleat's latest attraction, a helium balloon for visitors to get a bird's eye view of the estate, fails to arrive (6255)
3.30 Playdays (4038859) **3.50** The Enchanted Lands (5331946) **4.00** Bodger and Badger (1941946) **4.15** Fudge (6666168) **4.35** *Record Breakers Gold* (T) (6544304) **5.00** Newsround (T) (7003588) **5.10** Blue Peter. The team take up the pancake challenge (T) (4399859)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (977548)
6.00 News (T) and weather (120)
6.30 Regional News (T) (472)
7.00 This Is Your Life (T) (8236)
7.30 Here and Now Valuing family heirlooms; *six different views of teenage life from the* Walton sextuplets (T) (656)
8.00 EastEnders Alex faces an outraged Phil, and Terry's overtures to Irene don't produce the expected result (T) (4856)
8.30 [CHOICE] Goodnight Sweetheart New series of the time-travelling comedy set in the 1940s and 1990s. With Nicholas Lyndhurst, Elizabeth Carling and Emma Amos (T) (6491)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) and weather (3033)
9.30 Pleasure Beach Blackpool's theme park manager juggles one crisis after another (T) (51946)
10.00 Panorama The Millennium Dome: is it really a waste of money? What do its designers hope to put inside? (T) (190675)
10.40 They Think It's All Over Again Sports quiz, with David Gower, Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath, Lee Hurst, Julian Clary *and Matthew Pinsent (r) (T) (878101)*
11.15 Film '98 with Barry Norman In a special *edition,* Barry Norman interviews Steven Spielberg about his past successes and latest film *Amistad*, which follows the plight of a group of African slaves in 19th-century America (T) (452656)
11.45 The Two Jakes (1990) Sequel to *Chinatown*. Private detective Jake Gittes [FILM] is hired to investigate a wealthy businessman's adulterous behaviour. Jack Nicholson directs and stars (T) (24530025)
1.55am Weather (3003188)
2.00 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

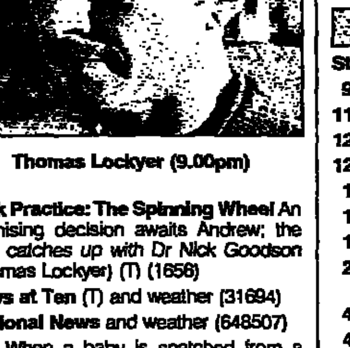
6.10am Quality Care (5871679) **6.35** Children and New Technology (T) (3505323)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (3862656)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (5053743) **7.40** Hair Bear Bunch (r) (7930014) **8.00** Blue Peter (r) (T) (1403014) **8.25** Juniper Jungle (r) (5642781) **8.40** Orville and Cuddles (r) (3827830) **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (T) (6417694) **9.10** German Globo (4949965)
9.15 The Bible in Animation (T) (943323) **9.45** Storytime (9547912) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (98052) **10.30** Words and Pictures (3614304) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3619859) **11.00** Look and Read (T) (5158526) **11.20** Zig Zag (6865033) **11.40** Landmarks (T) (2837217)
12.00 Sportsbank Special: Dance (43439) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (62052) **1.00** The Greedysaurus Gang (r) (34855946) **1.05** Hairy Jeremy (r) (34854217) **1.10** The Craft Hour (r) (9055859) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (65318507) **2.40** News (T) (8292149) **2.45** Wild Men (9731149) **3.25** News (T) (5251507) **3.30** The Village (878) **4.00** Real Rooms (r) (5303014) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (5306101) **4.55** Esther: Men and their bodies (1876364) **5.30** Today's the Day (149)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer is given only 24 hours to live (T) (471033)
6.20 Battlestar Galactica *(r) (T) (331507)*
7.10 Close Up (942491)
7.15 The Laurence Olivier Awards Clive Anderson presents the 22nd annual Society of London Theatre awards featuring performances from the cast of *Beauty and the Beast, Chicago, Popcorn and The Front Page* (4107052)
8.30 Ainsley's Meals in Minutes Chicken Kiev with butter bean puree in 30 minutes; caramelised tuna tatties; nutty noodles (T) (4033)
9.00 Abandoned and Deceived (1995) True-life drama with Lori Loughlin, Brian Kerwin [FILM] and Gordon Clapp. A divorced father refuses to pay maintenance for his two sons, prompting his poverty-stricken estranged wife to campaign for family rights and a change to the law. Directed by Joseph Dougherty (T) (2304)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (525507)

Playwright David Mamet (11.15pm)

11.15 [CHOICE] Face to Face Jeremy Isaacs talks to the playwright David Mamet. Last in series (219694)
11.55 Weather (829830)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (28521)
12.30am Learning Zone: A Tale of Two Capitals — *Paris and Rome* (88637) **1.30** Pilgrimage (57182) **2.00** Modern Languages (69163) **4.00** Ri Koran/ Japanese Cartoon Collections (87705) **5.00** Business and Training (4858873) **5.45** Siena Cathedral (3399415)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (5377965)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (T) (8155946)
9.55 Regional News and weather (9522897)
10.00 The Time, The Place (T) (92978)
10.30 This Morning (T) (58764014)
12.20pm Regional News (8995743)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6518965)
12.55 BLT (6593656) **12.55** WALES: Getaways (6593656) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (70592304) **1.50** BLT (21279743) **1.50-2.50** WALES: Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (3525014) **2.20** The Pulse (92359588) **2.50** *West Foot Forward (6870507)* **2.50** WALES: The Pulse (6870507)
3.20 News (T) (5249762)
3.25 Regional News and weather (5249033)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (1290526) **3.40** Teddybears (5320830) **3.50** The Animal Shelf (r) (1261014) **4.05** Sooty's Amazing Adventures (T) (7704033) **4.15** Snap (T) (103878) **4.45** Art Attack (T) (6535656)
5.10 Undercurrents (5871439)
5.10 WALES: The House (r) (T) (5871439)
5.40 News (T) and weather (978120)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (388859)
6.25 HTV Weather (929255)
6.30 Regional News (168)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (332965)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner on Mustique; Lesley Joseph explores *Boston; and Mary Nightingale goes to Co* Mayo (T) (3304)
7.30 Coronation Street The Platts have an unexpected guest at dinner (T) (192)
8.00 World in Action (T) (2052)
8.30 Great Escapes Martin Brundle presents another selection of real-life hair-raising *escapes (T) (8859)*



Thomas Lockyer (9.00pm)

9.00 Peak Practice: The Spinning Wheel An agonising decision awaits Andrew; the *past catches up with Dr Nick Goodson* (Thomas Lockyer) (T) (1656)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (31694)
10.30 Regional News and weather (648507)
10.40 Fitz When a baby is snatched from a local hospital, Fitz is convinced that the abductor is female (T) (366781)
11.40 The Drew Carey Show Drew fires a jewellery sales assistant (432168)
12.10am Millennium *After a murder in* Portland, Black is convinced that the killer will strike again (r) (T) (9716328)
1.05 Football Extra (5981182)
2.05 God's Gift (r) (T) (9224637)
3.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (r) (54960298)
3.20 The Time, The Place (r) (T) (54931786)
3.50 World in Action (r) (T) (76015960)
4.20 ITV Nightscreen (6909569)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (97724)
5.30 News (23076)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6593656)
1.50 Blue Heelers (3525014)
2.50-3.20 High Road (6870507)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5871439)
6.25-7.00 Central News (592781)
1.00am Football Extra (2018663)
3.25 The Time, the Place (54930057)
3.55 World in Action (38805618)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '98 (1301960)
5.20 Asian Eye (1406786)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8995743)
12.55 Home and Away (6593656)
1.25 High Road (59536859)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (3533033)
2.50-3.20 Gardener's Diary (6870507)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5871439)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (74897)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (6593656)
1.50 Quisine (2008323)
2.25-3.20 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (6162588)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5871439)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (588)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (168)
5.00am Freescreen (97724)

ANGLIA

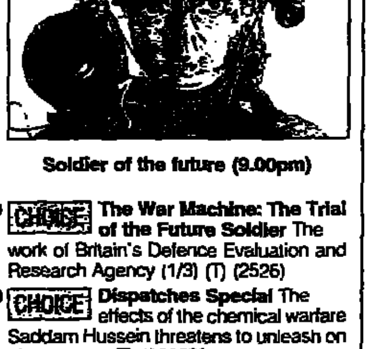
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Surprise Chefs (6593656)
1.55 Bringing Up Baby (21278014)
2.25-3.20 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (6162588)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5871439)
6.23 Anglia Weather (997656)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (592781)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (543030)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (28781)
9.00 Ysgolion (464965)
11.30 Springhill (7236)
12.00 Right to Reply (38507)
12.30pm Sesame Street (57120)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (11346507)
1.15 Miffi (11334762)
1.30 Time Team (73323)
2.30 The Windsors: The Sale of a Lifetime (35656)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (781)
4.30 Countdown (965)
5.00 5 Pump (1192052)
5.15 Ffeil (7008033)
5.30 Wild Britain (217)
6.00 Newyddion (742033)
6.10 Heno (333965)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (239439)
7.25 Terminal 3 (427323)
8.00 Llwyfan (5174)
8.30 Newyddion (9101)
9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (6743)
9.30 Sgorio (7665472)
10.35 Dispatches Special (635323)
11.25 Cancer Wars (775675)
12.25am Fortean TV (4565182)
12.55-1.30 NBA 24/7 (5964415)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (58507)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (28781)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (T) (8143101) **9.25** Schools at Work (4939588) **9.30** Geography Junction (T) (2797435) **9.45** Book Box (T) (3442728) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (4713101) **10.15** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (4736052) **10.30** *Place and People (T) (9193830)* **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (8809743) **11.00** The Score (T) (6856385) **11.15** The Mix (T) (6879236)
11.30 Springhill (r) (T) (7236) **12.00** Sesame Street (38507) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (72694) **1.30** The Living Sea Exotic coral reefs (r) (T) (56491) **2.00** Stolen A woman who had her lifetime's collection of porcelain stolen decides to make her own inquiries (r) (T) (5930)
2.30 The Windsors: The Sale of a Lifetime Live coverage of the New York auction. Among today's lots is a massive portrait by Sir Alfred Munnings (35656)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (781) **4.30** Countdown (T) (6538743) **4.55** Montel Williams. Teenagers confront their overprotective parents (T) (2636912) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (217)
6.00 Moviewatch *(830)*
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (410)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (819255)
7.55 Citizen 2000 Fifteen-year-olds' camcorder diaries (T) (356830)
8.00 The Ship: Sailaway Last in the series about the Swan Hunter shipyard on Tyneside. As the *Solitaire* nears completion the foreman must choose which of the men to keep on and which to make redundant (T) (5174)
8.30 Classic Plant A look at how cranes have evolved from the simple machines used to unload cargo from ships to today's high-tech huge tower machines (6/6) (T) (9101)



Soldier of the future (9.00pm)

9.00 [CHOICE] The War Machine: The Trial of the Future Soldier The work of Britain's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (1/3) (T) (2526)
10.00 [CHOICE] Dispatches Special The effects of the chemical warfare Saddam Hussein threatens to unleash on his enemies (T) (626697)
10.50 Father Ted Ted and Dougal plan Father Jack's escape from an old priests' home (r) (T) (596304)
11.20 Consequences A debate focusing on the consequences of the crisis in Iraq. Presented by Jon Snow (776304)
12.20am Fortean TV More bizarre television footage from around the world (6225347)
12.55 Transworld Sport (r) (2653298)
1.50 Football Italia (r) (79907958)
4.00 Schools: *Encyclopaedia Galactica* (565521) **5.45** Out For Adventure (3317811)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of *charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture:* **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (7802323)
7.00 Exclusive (r) (4560507) **7.30** Milkshake! (7258526) **7.35** Wimzie's House (r) (8113410) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (7777946) **8.30** WideWorld Equipping students with the skills needed to join the workforce (T) *(7776217)* **9.00** *Espresso (8687694)* **10.00** Wings Over the World (r) (T) (2696472) **10.30** Sunset Beach (T) (3015014) **11.10** Leeza (2126491)
12.00 5 News (T) (7770033) **12.30pm** Family *Affairs (r) (T) (7728472)* **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4569878) **1.30** Fame and Fortune (r) (T) (7727743) **2.00** Beauty and the Beast (2697101) **3.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (1939149)
3.30 The Smugglers (1969) with Shirley [FILM] Booth, Carol Lynley and Kurt Kaznar. A woman and her daughter get involved with a group of smugglers in the Austrian Tyrol. Directed by Norman Lloyd *(9972656)*
5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards (19161033)
5.30 Exclusive *Entertainment news with Sara* Cox (4166694)
6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (4163507)
6.30 Family Affairs Elsa wants Jack to play the perfect husband (T) (4154859)
7.00 On the Brink of War — A 5 News Special *Kirsty Young chairs a studio* debate on the Iraq crisis (5868694)
8.00 The Great House Game A visit to Manderston, the home of Lord and Lady Palmer in the Scottish Borders where the *teams are challenged to brush up two* 1950s silver tea services (T) (1930878)

Presenter Russell Grant (8.30pm)

8.30 HouseBusters Russell Grant and his *team help a woman whose weight has* ballooned since she moved house (T) (1919385)
9.00 Gang in Blue (1996) directed by and [FILM] starring Mario and Melvin van Peebles. *Drama about racism in the American* police force (96167120)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update The latest sounds from the Pepsi chart (8002149)
10.55 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and *comedy (8196410)*
11.40 Live and Dangerous Includes action from last year's Winter Extreme Games (75010435)
3.45am Asian Football Show (5693322)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7560540)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8635231)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

7.00am Street Sharks (53491) **7.30** Bump in the Night (2123323) **7.45** The Simpsons (95743) ***8.15*** *Oprah (6327762)* ***9.00*** *Murphy* Brown (55675) **9.30** Murphy Brown (17526) **10.00** Another World (81410) **11.00** Days of *Our Lives* (58946) **12.00** Married ...with Children (85439) **12.30pm** M*A*S*H (88014) **1.00** Geraldo (16897) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (31781) **3.00** Jenny Jones (55520) **4.00** Oprah (21255) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7149) **6.00** The Live 6 Show (9472) **6.30** Married with Children (3052) **7.00** The Simpsons (8878) **7.30** Real TV (9236) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine *(40878)* **9.00** Sliders (20014) **10.00** Brooklyn South (23101) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (79439) **12.00** Late Show *(33540)* **1.00am** *In the Heat of the Night* (26811) **2.00** Long Play (3560453)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Twin Town** *(1997)*
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **She's the One (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **The Preacher's Wife (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 56) **Metro (1996)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Sky Riders (1976) (86323) **7.30 Naked Runner (1967)** (18491) **9.30 Kaleidoscope (1966)** (62507) **11.30 Theodore Rex (1995)** (27946) **1.00pm The Public Eye (1972)** (13385) **3.00 Sense and Sensibility (1995)** (84559694) **5.20 Theodore Rex (1995)** (99922323) **7.00 Down Periscope (1996)** (19878) **9.00 Kingpin (1996)** (38033) **11.00 Ed Wood (1994)** (38792946) **1.05am Cleopatra Jones (1973)** (5189786) **2.35 Cleopatra Jones and the Casino of Gold (1975)** (147453) **4.10 Black Belt Jones (1974)** (807960)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Tennessee's Partner (1955) (84965) **7.30 The Tall T (1957)** (8524168) **8.50 Jitterbugs (1943)** (9586830) **10.10 Shipyard Sally (1939)** (67134859) **12.00 The Rockford Files: Punishment and Crime (1996)** (43526) **2.00pm Carrie (1952)** *(45323)* **4.00 The Skateboard Kid II (1995)** (3923) **6.00 The Rockford Files: Punishment and Crime (1996)** (11588) **8.00 When Innocence Is Lost (1997)** (37304) **10.05 Independence Day (1996)** (20972149) **12.30am The End of Eden (1998)** (424892) **2.05 Six Degrees of Separation (1993)** (185328) **4.00 Acts of Contrition (1997)** (65298)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Long Voyage Home (1940) (7740897) **6.00 The Taming of the Shrew (1967)** (4337656) **8.00 Funny About Love (1990)** (4332101) **10.00 Battle of the Bulge (1965)** (78084656) **12.25am One False Move (1992)** (1979873) **2.10 Gardens of Stone (1987)** (7557502) **4.05 I Wake Up Screaming (1941)** (67300618)

TNT

9.00pm High Society *(1956)* (51298304) **11.00 Casablanca (1942)** (84259897) **1.00am Lady L (1965)** (84200521) **3.00 The Girl and the General (1967)** (38701182) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Spanish Primera Liga (99217) **9.00** Racing News (90472) **9.30** Aerobics (42323) **10.00** Football Special (50149) **11.30** Rebel Sports (65236) **12.00** Aerobics (10236) **12.30pm** Sports Unlimited (82217) **1.30** Football Special (58491) **3.00** Spanish Primera Liga (76946) **6.00** Watersports World (7781) **8.00** Sports Centre (9014) **8.30** League Review (3694) **7.00** Liverpool v Everton — Live (3048491) **10.30** Sports Centre (97385) **11.00** Pool: World Championship (74651) **12.00** Liverpool v Everton (62076) **2.00am** Sports Centre (87521) **2.30** *League Review* (79328) **3.00** Sports Centre (36845) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (1103472) **7.30** Rebel Sports (1122507) **8.00** Racing News (8276149) **8.30** World Sport Special (8268120) **9.00** Golf: Tuscon Classic (5628410) **11.00** Ski Prime (1743507) **11.30** League Review (8658174) **1.00pm** Boxing (5637526) **3.00** Golf: Tuscon Classic (7642168) **5.00** Ski Prime (8279439) **5.30** League Review (4142168) **6.00** Rebel Sports (4132781) **6.30** V-Max (4123033) **7.00** Sports Centre (8259675) **7.30** World *Motor Sport* (4893965) **11.30** League Review (5812217) **12.00** V-Max (9842106) **12.30am** Bowls: Australia v England (8738811) **2.30** Sports Centre (1419095) **3.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Snooker: Scottish Open Final (97875694) **4.00** Basketball (13102897) **6.00** Outdoor Quest (71103323) **7.00** Fish TV (51211255) **8.00** Bowls: Australia v England (51291491) **10.00** Super League Classics (89271526) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

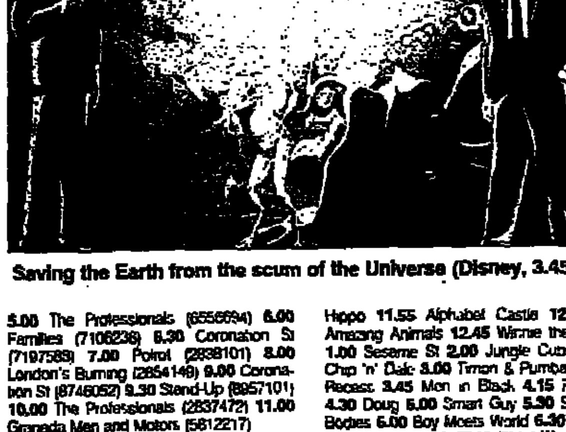
7.30am *Sailing (24156)* **8.00** *Olympic* Games (891120) **10.30** Rally (14052) **11.00** Tennis (79101) **1.00pm** Indoor Athletics *(38762)* **2.00** *Football: African Nations Cup* (4894236) **6.00** Tractor Pulling (56526) **7.00** Speedworld (99168) **8.00** African Nations Cup *(79304)* **10.00** Football (49385) **11.30** Boxing (84694) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge Down Under (2775149) **7.35** Neighbours (9290897) **8.00** Crossroads (8935323) **8.25** *EastEnders* (1339507) **9.00** The Bill (2136830) **9.30** Howards' Way (5064453) **10.00** Home to Roost (3758859) **10.30** The *Sullivans* (2132014) **11.00** Generation Game (2808694) **12.00** Crossroads (87008120) **12.25pm** Neighbours (87016507) **12.55** EastEnders (6274120) **1.30** Sykes (2531491) **2.05** Open All Hours (5897696) **2.45** Stay Lucky (1485859) **3.45** The *Bill* (1263439) **4.15** Juliet Bravo (66896435) **5.20** EastEnders (3730014) **5.55** Big Break (2290830) **6.30** The *Bill (3426120)* ***7.00*** Dad's Army (7850120) **7.40** Canned Carrott (5504120) **8.20** The Blackadder (1821236) ***9.00*** *Dangerfield (41491656)* ***10.05*** *Canned* Carrott (2694830) **10.45** Man from Auntie (1554149) **11.25** Paul Merton: The Series (7228149) **12.00** Between the Lines (9652219) **12.55am** Spitting Image (9328057) **1.20** The Equalizer (7902892) **2.10** Shopping (58831385)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (5932385) **7.00** El Mode (5143656) **7.30** Coronation St (6155491) **8.00** Blind Date (1486526) **9.00** Within These Walls (3524976) **10.00** The Sandbaggers (5151675) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (5171439) **12.00** Coronation St (7975507) **12.30pm** Families (6977965) **1.00** Watching (5175255) **1.30** Agony (8976236) **2.00** Poirot (5692120) **3.00** London's Burning (8738033) ***4.00*** *Hawaii Five-O (8757163)* **5.00** The Professionals (6556694) **6.00** Families (7106236) **6.30** Coronation St (7197589) **7.00** Poirot (2838101) **8.00** London's Burning (2854149) **9.00** Coronation St (8746052) **9.30** Stand-Up (8957101) **10.00** The Professionals (2837472) **11.00** Granada Men and Motors (5812217)



Saving the Earth from the scum of the Universe (Disney, 3.45pm)

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

5.00pm Gridlock (13178830) **5.30** Hey Dad II (19606255) **6.00** Blockbusters (19603168) ***6.30*** *A Country Practice* (19687120) **7.00** London Bridge (13198694) **7.30** Pull the Other One (19683304) **8.00** Birds of a Feather *(13174014)* **8.30** First Sign of Madness (13193149) **9.00** Chancer (51282743) **10.00** Soldier, Soldier *(51285830)* **11.00** St Elsewhere (43683385) **12.00** Pull the Other One (89222250) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (55022415) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am *Under the Umbrella Tree* **6.30** Talespin **7.00** Mighty Ducks **7.30** Gargoyles **8.30** Timon & Pumbaa **9.00** Sesame St **10.00** Winnie the Pooh ***10.15*** *Toothbrush* Family **10.20** Rosie & Jim **10.35** Bear in the Big Blue House **11.00** Microscopic Milton ***11.05*** *Tots TV* **11.25** Big Garage **11.40** Little Hippo **11.55** Alphabet Castle **12.15pm** Amazing Animals **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Jungle Cubs **2.30** Chip 'n' Dale **3.00** Timon & Pumbaa **3.30** Recess **3.45** Men in Black **4.15** Recess **4.30** Doug **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Boy *Meets* World **6.30** Home Improvement **7.00 FILM: Tidal Wave, No Escape (1997) 8.30** Dinosaurs **9.00** Touched by an Angel **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Zeo **6.25** Crazy Crow **6.30** Power Rangers Zeo **7.00** X Men **7.35** Mortal Kombat **8.00** Goosebumps **8.35** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Pinocchio **10.30** Peter Pan **11.00** Oliver Twist **11.30** Huckleberry Finn **12.00** Gulliver's Travels **12.30pm** X Men **1.00** Spiderman **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.25** Dodo **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** The Tick **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Rementeld the Reindeer **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Spellbinder **9.00** Beverly Hills Teens **10.00** AJ's Time Travelers **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Extrogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Spirou **12.30pm** Beverly Hills Teens **1.00** Spellbinder **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** *Extrogoud* ***2.30*** *Flash Gordon* ***3.00*** *Gigantor* **3.30** Beverly Hills Teens **4.00** Batman **4.30** Dennis the Menace **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from ***5.00am*** *to* ***9.00pm****, seven days a week*

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula **6.30** Ren & Stimpy **7.00** Angry Beavers **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's *House* ***10.30*** *Babar* ***11.00*** *Magic* School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blues Clues **1.00** Clangers **1.30** *Muppet Babies* **2.00** *Fraggle Rock* **2.30** Alvin & the Chipmunks **3.00** Jumanji **3.30** Doug **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Captain Star ***5.00*** *Rugrats* ***5.30*** *Sister Sister* **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Kenan & Kel

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Sweat **1.00** TBA **1.30** Heartbreak High **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** Teenage Urban Adventurers **3.15** On the Make **3.30** Heartbreak High **4.00** Hollyoaks **4.30** Saved by the Bell **5.00** USA High **5.30** Sweat **6.00** TBA **6.30** Bangs **6.45** It's in the Jeans **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hollyoaks

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Fifteen-to-One **5.50** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.05** Blockbusters **7.30** Give Us a Clue **8.00** All Clued Up **8.30** Whittle **9.15** Sale of the Century **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** 3-2-1 **12.30am** Moonlighting **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Zorro **3.00** The Byrds of Paradise **4.00** Mighty Jungle **4.30** Zorro **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (8846439) **9.00** Tour of Duty (8826675) **10.00** The Basement (2142491) **10.30** Red Shoe Diaries (2168439) **11.00 FILM: Strange Behaviour (1981)** (8256410) **1.00am** The Basement (7536811) **1.30** Tour of Duty (7775618) **2.30 FILM: RSVP (1984)** (7774989) **4.30** Red Shoes Diaries (7524076) **5.00** The A-Team (9386892)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (6052) **7.30** Roseanne (3520) **8.00** Kenny Everett (2472) **8.30** Caroline in the City (1507) **9.00** Cheers (32385) **9.30** Ellen (31217) **10.00** Frasier (19507) **10.30** Girls on Top (28255) **11.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner (37830) **11.30** Grace Under Fire (74410) **12.00** Ellen (15095) **12.30am** Nurses (60057) **1.00** Cheers (84873) **1.30** Roseanne (39811) **2.00** Caroline in the City (85163) **2.30** Still in Bed with MeDinner (57958) **3.00** Frasier (38827) **3.30** Girls on Top (88250)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (7307168) **8.30** Deepwater Black (7386675) **9.00** The Cape (4641439) **10.00 FILM: Captain America (1990)** (5702507) **12.00** Sightings (5500637) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (7494837) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3298705) **2.00** Dark Shadows (8757989) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (8769724) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7618057) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot ***10.30*** *Tool Time* ***11.00*** *Go Fishing* **11.30** Hometime **12.00** The Road Show **12.30pm** The All New This Old House **1.00** Yan Can *Cook* ***1.30*** *New Yankee Workshop* **2.00** Home Again **2.30** The House **3.00** Cookabout **3.30** This Old House **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (3423033) **4.30** Disaster (3429217) **5.00** Fightline (4026743) **5.30** Terra X Surgeons from the Stone Age (3443897) **6.00** Ways of the Wild. Home on the Range (8319520) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4046507) **7.30** History's Turning Points (3420946) **8.00** Time Travellers (4055255) **8.30** Wonders of Weather (4034762) **9.00** Lonely Planet (8839149) **10.00** Minds on Crime: Violent Minds (8832236) **11.00** Firepower 2000 (2887101) **12.00** Wings of the Luftwaffe (5212521) **1.00am** History's Turning Points (7518057) **1.30** *Beyond 2000* (8216892) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Worlds Apart (9896120) **7.30** Blues Highway (4224033) **8.00** Heaven's Breath: Reaping the Wind (5857615) **9.00** The Soul of Spain (9257471) **10.00** Volcano Week: Valley of 10,000 Smokes (2502548) **11.00** *The Power of Water* (7496472) **12.00** Wild Horizons. The Water Dancers (4859786) **12.30am** Wild Horizons (8114322) **1.00** Close

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00pm *On Top Of The World* **1.00** Caribbean Diary **1.30** Railway Adventures Across Europe **2.00** Reel World **2.30** On Tour **3.00** Granger's World **4.00** Ridge Riders **4.30** In The Footsteps Of Champagne Charlie **5.00** Aspects Of Life **5.30** Ribbons Of Steel **6.00** A Fork In The Road **6.30** Tales from the Flying Sofa **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** On The Horizon **8.30** The Flavours Of France **9.00** Expedition **10.00** On Tour **10.30** In The Footsteps Of Champagne Charlie **11.00** Greg Grainger's Adventure Documentaries **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Boer War (1734859) **5.00** American Revolution (8258946) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (1863507) **7.00** Biography The Actors (9889656) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am *Food Network Daily* **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Dilly Dines Out **10.30** Surprise Chefs **11.00** Worrall Thompson *Cooks* ***11.30*** *Graham Kerr's Kitchen* **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** The Green Gourmet **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** For Better, for Worse **2.00** Tessa Bramley's Seasonal Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Retrospectives **3.30** Worrall Thompson *Cooks* ***4.00*** *Ross's Foreign Assignment* **4.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **8.55** Ready, Steady, Cook **9.35** Hart to Hart **10.30** The Young and the Restless **11.20** Brookside **11.50** Jimmy's **12.20pm** Rescue 911 **12.50** Animal Rescue **1.20** Adrenalin Junkies **2.20** Living It Up! **3.20** Jerry Springer **4.10** Tempestt **5.00** The Heat Is On **5.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Murder Call **9.00 FILM: Kate's Secret 11.00** The Spicy Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.30am *Punjabi Folk* **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Ru Ba Ru **8.00** ZEE Business Show **8.30** Aahaa **9.00 FILM: Satta Bazaar 11.30** Daraar **12.00** ***FILM: Kanyadaan*** **3.00pm** Margarita **3.30** Parampara **4.00** Hum Paanch **4.30** Hey Ha Ho **5.00** Pop Korn **5.30** Dance Mania **5.00** *Banegi Apni Baat* **6.30** *Mast Must Show* **7.00** Your Zindagi **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Sailaab **9.00 FILM: Maha Sangram 12.00** Close

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HSBC avoids savaging by Asia's tigers

BUSINESS

POUNDING 46
Roger Bootle on a hard time for exporters

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23 1998

Sainsbury takes on Tesco with launch of local mini-stores

By Fraser Nelson

J SAINSBURY will this summer launch a chain of 24-hour mini-stores in an attempt to outpace Tesco in the supermarket battle to reclaim the high street.

Sainsbury, which has for the last 15 years been closing local groceries in favour of out-of-town hypermarkets, has completed the blueprint for its mini-stores and will open the first in June. Two more are due to be launched later in the year.

Trading under "Sainsbury's Local", the new stores will specialise in takeaway meals, with separate offerings for breakfast, lunch and dinner. They will sell 1,500 other regular Sainsbury items, including newspapers, sweets and tobacco.

The stores will be smaller than 3,000 sq ft. Each will have 25 staff, 12 of whom will be in the store at any one time. As the stores are relatively small in size, each one will be able to trade on Sunday without breaching local trading restrictions. The stores will be launched in city and town formats. The first, to open in Fulham Palace Road, London, will have the most developed takeaway option — which Sainsbury describes as a "daily meal solution".

David Clapham, director of Sainsbury's Special Business Units, said: "The convenience stores will be more personal and more indulgent than our superstores — not a miniaturised version of them. We hope shoppers will use these types of stores to top up with a few items on the way home."

Each store will also come equipped with a mini-bakery, where the staff will finish cooking bread prepared in other Sainsbury's bakeries, with fresh batches arriving throughout the day. Cash machines will be installed at the stores and Sainsbury's loyalty cards issued.

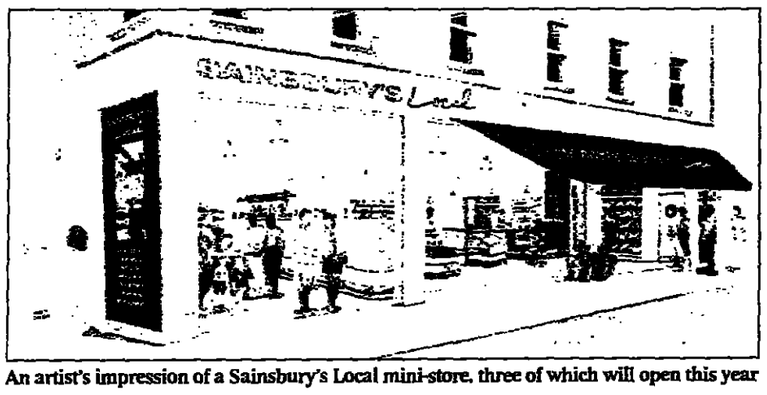
Tesco is already significantly ahead in the small stores format, with more than 38 Metro stores already open. It has plans to open around six every year. The three Sainsbury mini-stores that are due to be opened this year will be located in Fulham Palace Road, London, Headcorn in Kent and at a site in Hampshire on which the company has yet to decide.

Sainsbury insists that its small stores will be very different from the normal superstore format, in contrast with Tesco Metro stores, which are designed to be miniature versions of the superstores.

Marks & Spencer has already announced plans to open shops in railway stations and hospitals, and is working on a late-opening store in Covent Garden, London, that will compete directly with a local Tesco Metro store.

The Sainsbury development comes as the supermarket struggles to compete with Tesco in the main supermarket sector. Over Christmas, Sainsbury managed 3.2 per cent like-for-like growth — less than half of Tesco's rate. Asda estimates that its like-for-like sales growth was about 10 per cent over the period.

Safeway will tomorrow confirm that its growth was the worst of the big four supermarket chains. Its seasonal trading figures are expected to detail an underlying sales increase of just 1 per cent in the run-up to Christmas and less than 2.5 per cent overall.



An artist's impression of a Sainsbury's Local mini-store, three of which will open this year

ANTHONY UPTON

David Blunkett, left, and Gordon Brown at the G8 meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London

G8 agrees jobs action plan

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

THE G8 group of leading industrial countries yesterday agreed to launch a jobs action plan aimed at marrying a cut in unemployment with more effective social protection.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who chaired the meeting which concluded in London yesterday, hailed the agreement as evidence of a "new employment agenda" emerging, which would bring both "economic efficiency and social progress". He said: "This is the first time that every major industrial country had committed itself to a common action plan."

However, the decision for each country to pursue an action plan failed to hide sharp differences over the approach to the jobs market and, in particular, France's decision to cut the working week from 39 hours to 35 hours. The text of the agreement refers only to the need for "equitable working time arrangements" and Mr Brown insisted that these remain a decision for each individual country.

The French Government said the G8's conclusions were evidence that Anglo-Saxon countries were moving away from a "theological" approach to the issue, although it admitted its working-time directive had prompted "curiosity" among other G8 members.

The G8 — the UK, US, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and Russia — agreed seven broad principles and will present action plans to the next G8 summit in Birmingham in May. The principles include pursuing sound macro-economic policies, boosting "employability" through lifelong learning, reforming tax and benefit systems to encourage Welfare to Work and creating a climate in which small companies can flourish.

Earlier in the weekend, the G7 group — which excludes Russia — issued a communiqué pledging to review the lessons from the Asian economic crisis. However, the communiqué stopped short of providing any new help for the region and barely touched on the problems in Indonesia. There was also unusually clear-cut criticism of Japanese plans to revive its flagging economy. Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, publicly backed the IMF view that Japan should produce a package of tax cuts and public spending increases to help to stimulate its economy.

However, Hikaru Matsunaga, Japanese Finance Minister, hit back in a rare show of public anger, insisting that the rest of the G7 had not understood the nature of the Japanese reform package — the latest tranche of which was announced on Friday.

Leading article, page 21

Barclays snubbed again

By Jason Nisse

MARTIN TAYLOR, chief executive of Barclays, is facing City ridicule after it emerged that he was rebuffed for the second time in six months in an unsolicited attempt to take over a rival.

The target this time was Standard Chartered, which has an extensive Far Eastern banking network. Mr Taylor suggested a £10 billion takeover while dining with Malcolm Williamson, chief executive of Standard, this month.

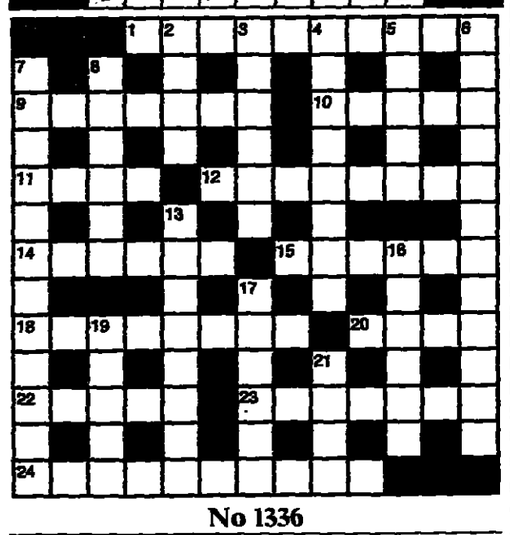
Last summer, Mr Taylor made a phone call to Derek Wanless, his opposite number at NatWest. Then a £35 billion merger between the two, the plan was rejected by Mr Wanless as unworkable.

Similarly Mr Williamson rejected Mr Taylor's suggestion. Standard said last night that no talks were ongoing and it intended to remain independent.

Barclays interest in the bank was prompted by the sharp fall in Standard's shares last autumn, from more than £10 to less than £5, because of worries over Asia. But postive statements this week from both it and HSBC Holdings should allay many City fears.

The latest revelations about Mr Taylor's hunger for acquisitions may cause worries about Barclays' strategic direction. Last week the bank posted poor results and Mr Taylor talked about likely consolidation in banking worldwide.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1336

ACROSS
1 Bumpy skin from cold, fright (5-5)
9 Accept share (of) (7)
10 Sharp, pungent (eg smell) (5)
11 Loud (crowd) noise (4)
12 Lay out (cash) (8)
14 Georg —, mathematician; church singer (6)
15 Unimportant facts (6)
18 Of sound: unamplified (guitar) (8)
20 — of Cleves, of Green Gables (4)
22 A republic; sort of rubber (5)
23 On horseback; went up (7)
24 Hopeless idea; one scratching (3-7)

DOWN
2 Ellipse; a cricket ground (4)
3 Money in coin (6)
4 Gustave —, *Bovary* author (8)
5 Mistake (5)
6 Ulterior motive (6,6)
7 Gain (of value); thanks (12)
8 Command; make priest (6)
13 Unvarying, faithful (8)
16 Conceit; a case, a Fair (6)
17 Cook gently; be about to rage (6)
19 (In) ancient (days) (*arch.*) (5)
21 Lovably sweet (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1335

ACROSS: 1 Shandy 4 Towns 8 Pepys 9 Conifer 10 Unusual 11 Grid 12 Pit 14 Siege 15 Rufus 18 Tip 20 Dive 22 Lottery 24 Cassius 25 Faith 26 Largo 27 Flagon

DOWN: 1 St Paul's 2 Ampoule 3 Disquiet 4 Tiny 5 Wafer 6 Strad 7 Scalp 13 Truthful 16 Feeling 17 Say when 19 Plush 20 Ducal 21 Visor 23 Lino

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Texas aims to top PacifiCorp bid

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

TEXAS UTILITIES of Dallas is to make a £4.2 billion rival bid for The Energy Group, topping PacifiCorp's £4.05 billion offer for the Anglo-American business that owns Eastern Electricity.

Texas is thought to be in the final stages of negotiations with Energy to assure top executives that their positions are safe and is also thrashing out a deal to sell Peabody Coal, the US business. After those moves are complete — which could be a matter of days — it is expected that Texas will mount a bid for Energy that could value the business at £4.2 billion, or 800p a share. PacifiCorp is willing to pay 765p a share under the agreed offer made earlier this month.

In order to clinch agreement from Energy's management, Texas has promised that John Devaney, chief executive, and Eric Anstee, finance director, will have substantial roles in the new company.

Texas must seal a deal with Lehman Merchant, part of the Lehman group, to sell Peabody in order to avoid regulatory difficulties in the US. Any regulatory delay is likely to kill Texas's chances because PacifiCorp already has full approval from the US and UK authorities. PacifiCorp last week secured the backing of the Federal Trade Commission, subject to the company selling some Peabody mines.

Texas also needs to set up a financial package to stage a bid, knowing that it is under pressure to deliver a cash offer. PacifiCorp has argued that Texas may have to issue up to $1 billion (£610 million) in equity to back its bid. Energy Group shares stand at 773p.

Polly Peck lawyers demoted

DIBB LUPTON ALSOP, one of the UK's largest law firms, has lost its place as lead lawyer on the administration of Polly Peck International, the group formerly controlled by Asil Nadir (Jason Nisse writes).

Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche, the joint administrator, is understood to have passed much of the legal work of the administration to Freshfields, the giant City firm.

The largest part of the work in an ongoing legal action against BDO Stoy Hayward, the Polly Peck auditor, and the continuing action against Mr Nadir, who is a fugitive from justice having fled to northern Cyprus from the UK more than three years ago.

Mr Morris's action is a blow to Dibb. As Alsop & Wilkinson, the firm had worked on the administration of Polly Peck for seven years. Alsop merged with Dibb Lupton Broomhead last year.

Ousted Liberty directors sue for loss of office

By Jason Nisse

LIBERTY, which issued a profits warning last week, is being sued for more the £760,000 in compensation by two directors ousted after Brian Myerson, the South African investor, won a bitter battle for control of the troubled department store group.

Andrew Garety, who was finance director and briefly chairman, and Ian Thomson, the managing director, resigned last month along with two non-executive directors, Brian Perry and Evie Soames, under pressure from investors speaking for more than half of Liberty's shares.

Their departures left the group with no executive directors and came at the end of a long feud between Mr Myerson and Dennis Cassidy, who had earlier resigned as chairman. Mr Myerson's camp said that if Mr Garety had not resigned, a shareholder meeting would have had to be called to oust him.

Garety: seeks £359,000

Though Liberty has recruited Philip Bowman, former finance director of Bass, as chairman, it still lacks senior management. Its shares last week dived after it gave warning of poor trading and said that its backers had not approved a £40 million refit of its store in the West End of London.

Mr Garety and Mr Thomson are suing for two years' pay and benefits as loss-of-office compensation. Mr Garety seeks £359,000 in all, and Mr Thomson £402,000.

Liberty said it had received the writ, but would continue to negotiate with the two men about a pay-off. "This is unhelpful posturing on their behalf," said a spokesman.

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